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**SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE**

**TIME TO MAKE MONEY, GIRLS!**
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**SUNDAY BIZ** / B2-1

**BALLERINA LISA**
Macuja learns ropes of running a venture via long distance.

**LIFESTYLE** / D1

**CREATING FAMILY SUMMERS** to remember: Taking kids on vacation trips is family bonding at its best.

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, May 6, 2007 ★★ 16 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 147 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

## Agri putting up P2-B nat'l grains highway

By Amy R. Remo

A KILOGRAM OF ONION COSTS ONLY P7 IN Nueva Ecija but sells for P30 to P40 in Metro Manila.

A kilo of chicken costs P50 at the farmgate but sells for as high as P100 to P110 in Metro Manila supermarkets.

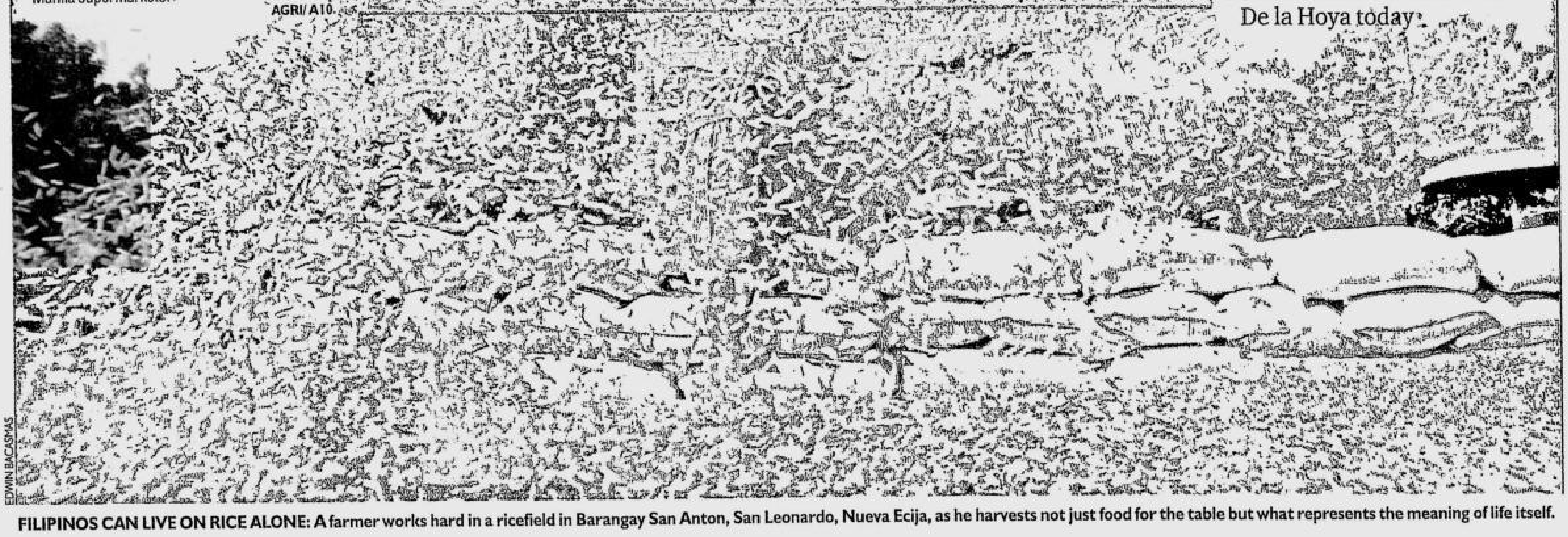
AGRI/ A10

**WORLD** / A26

**PARIS HILTON** sentenced to 45 days in jail for violating her probation over a traffic offense.

**SPORTS** / A30

**MAYWEATHER** oddsmakers' favorite over De la Hoya today.



EDWIN BACASMAS

**FILIPINOS CAN LIVE ON RICE ALONE:** A farmer works hard in a ricefield in Barangay San Anton, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, as he harvests not just food for the table but what represents the meaning of life itself.

# Binay: Thank you, GMA

## Suspended Makati mayor says Ms Arroyo ensures his victory

By Tarra Quismundo, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Julie M. Aurelio

MAKATI MAYOR JEJOMAR BINAY, BATTLING A NEW SUSpension order that the Department of the Interior and Local Government served him late Friday night, said President Macapagal-Arroyo should be credited for boosting his reelection bid.

"I am inviting you to thank Mrs. Arroyo because your votes for me are even increasing," Binay, the president of the United Opposition, told some 2,000 cheering supporters gathered in front of the Makati City Hall past midnight on Friday.

With his left fist raised, Binay added: "Tonight, we again showed the prevailing spirit among the people of Makati. When we are challenged to a fight, we fight."

Ex-Sen. Rene Saguisag, his friend and colleague in the law profession, rushed to Binay's side shortly after hearing about the new 60-day suspension order.

"Because of this, he might get 101 percent [of the votes]. Even those who are anti-Binay will vote for him because of this," Saguisag said.

Binay's post is being contested by Sen. Lito Lapid, who enjoys the backing of Malacañang.

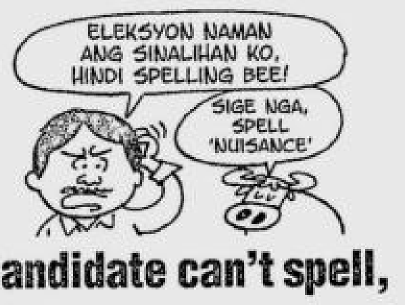
Even the Genuine Opposition said the suspension order issued by the Ombudsman spoke of the Arroyo administration's "desperation" to derail Binay's campaign, as well as those of the GO senatorial candidates.

"First they wiretapped [the phone of] ex-President Cory Aquino, then they garnished Makati funds. And now they want to suspend Mayor Binay. Having come to the inescapable conclusion that they will lose the senatorial elections, the administration of Ms Arroyo and her team have taken the low road and chosen to merely harass the leadership of the Genuine Opposition," said GO campaign spokesper-

BINAY/ A20

RODEL ROTONI

**THE INQUIRER READ-ALONG** holds its first session on Saturday with actress Manilyn Reynes reading a story to children aged 7 to 13 at the PDI library. To be held twice a month, the next Read Along on May 26 will feature Mikaela Fudolig who made history when she graduated summa from UP at 16. *(Story on Page A6.)*



ELEKSYON NAMAN ANG SINALIHAN KO, HINDI SPELLING BEE!
SIGE NGA, SPELL 'NUISANCE'

## Candidate can't spell, is declared a nuisance

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IF YOU CAN'T SPELL "INDEPENDENT," YOU can be declared a nuisance candidate. As if there aren't enough annoyances elected to office already.

The Commission on Elections has declared a congressional bet a nuisance candidate—the first election case to be resolved in Metro Manila since the local campaign began.

Several reasons were cited, including a misspelled word in the bet's certificate of candidacy (COC): "It is telling that the respondent misspelled 'independent' as 'indipendent' if indeed respondent were an ac-

CANDIDATE/ A4

RYAN LIM

**ESCUDERO:** Suddenly 2 kids in October

## First time father Chiz expecting twins

By TJ Burgonio

UNLIKE THE SPOUSES OF OTHER SENatorial candidates, the wife of House Minority Leader Francis "Chiz" Escudero has opted to stay away from his motorcades, campaign rallies and road shows in the metropolis, and elsewhere for the past two months.

The reason: Escudero's wife, Christine Bernadette, is pregnant with twins.

"Tintin is 13 weeks on the way," Escudero, 37, said, breaking into a smile as he confirmed the good news to INQUIRER editors and staff over dinner Thursday night. "They say it's good luck; I agree."

It's more than good luck; it's a blessing times two.

After being married for more than seven years, the twins will be the couple's first. Christine, 33, who had an ectopic pregnancy in 2001, is due to give birth in October, the couple's birth month.

This early, the couple are giddy with "infanticipation" and already have names for their twins, way ahead of the ultra-sound test which would tell them the babies' genders.

"My wife wants to name them Emilio and Joaquin, assuming they're boys. But I told her that voters would have a tough time writing down Joaquin on the bal-

FIRST/ A10

## Nuns' nursing school: From robotic to caring

By Jocelyn R. Uy

SHE NEVER LEAVES A WARD, SHE says, without giving her patients a bright smile or a comforting pat.

A nurse for almost half her life, Editha Reyes, 47, is convinced that relief for the sick often comes, not in the form of a bitter pill, but in simple acts of kindness.

Reyes observes that younger nurses are slowly losing sight of the essence of the nursing profession, now that the United States and other First World countries have opened their doors to more Filipino health workers. With the fixation on the "American dream," some nurses have become "robotic" in a service-oriented career, she says.

And this is one malady that the nuns running the College of the Holy Spirit (CHS) on Mendiola, Manila, wish to "heal"—the reason why three years ago

NUNS/ A18

## Japan waging, winning new battle in RP

By Fernando del Mundo

*(Last of three parts)*

**AGRARIAN REFORM**

**i-TEAM** *Report*

MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY AFTER the end of World War II, Japan is waging a new war in the Philippines.

It is a lonely battle against poverty. Its staging area is the government's agrarian reform program. By all accounts, the Japanese are winning, at least in the 120 communities that they have touched.

Japan's intervention in agrarian reform began in 1995 when then President Fidel V. Ramos sought the assistance of Tokyo in a determined bid to pump life into the flagging program.

President Corazon Aquino had launched the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, or the CARP law of 1988, two years after the People Power revolution that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

It was then touted as the centerpiece of an ambitious initiative to wrench peasant farmers from poverty, remove inequality in land tenure, defuse tensions and make the largely feudal countryside the focus of agricultural investments and economic growth.

Aquino allocated P50 billion for CARP's implementation for 10 years. Financing was to come from the disposal by the Asset Privatization Trust of "nonperforming" government enterprises and plundered Marcos wealth that the Presidential Commission on Good Government would recover.

This was later extended for another 10 years, ending in June 2008. In addition,

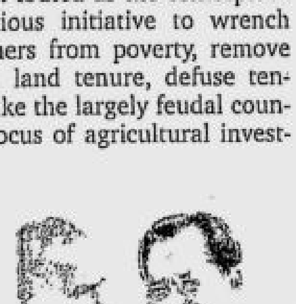
JAPAN/ A4

**FIRST VOTES CAST** as France chooses president in the country's hardest-fought presidential election in years.

WORLD / A25

**PROCTER** and Gamble Philippines executive saves man's life.

SUNDAY BIZ / B1



**Randy David: The charismatic cleric** running for governor of Pampanga assumes that the only antidote to cash is conscience. Given the political realities of that province today, perhaps he is right.

OPINION / A13

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Bicol Region, Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
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| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

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# Soldiers: We were told to vote for gov't bets

By **Ferdinand O. Zuasola**, *Inquirer Mindanao*, and **Juan Escandor Jr.**, *Inquirer Southern Luzon*

MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL—ARMY SOLDIERS and militiamen assigned here and in the towns of Lupon, Banaybanay, San Isidro and Caraga yesterday claimed they were instructed to vote for pro-administration candidates and for party-list groups identified with the government in the absentee voting for military personnel.

"Our commanders have ordered us not to vote for anybody except for those running under the administration. We were also ordered to vote for party-list groups not identified with the communists," said a soldier who declined to be identified.

Two other soldiers confirmed the "instruction" from their commanders.

But other soldiers, who had earlier agreed to talk to the Inquirer, backed out when an unidentified officer told them to stay away from reporters.

Senior military officials were not around to clarify the alleged order, but a junior officer denied there was such an instruction.

Lt. Michael Mortejo, commanding officer of Bravo Company of the 72nd Infantry Battalion, said soldiers and militiamen were free to vote for candidates and party-list groups of their choosing.

"No, there is no such thing as an instruction," he said.

During the early hours of the local absentee voting, the balloting was held at the back of the house of reelectionist Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil, an ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, despite protests from her political opponents.

Soldiers prevented the Inquirer from taking photos of the voting, saying they were just following orders from their superiors.

"Why at the back of her house?" Rep. Joel Mayo Almario, who is running in the vice gubernatorial race, asked.

But Remlane Tambuang, director of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in Southern Mindanao, said there was nothing wrong with conducting the balloting behind Palma Gil's house.

"Because local candidates are not included in the local absentee voting, it's no cause for concern. No local candidates will be included, so therefore it is an appropriate place for voting," Tambuang told the Inquirer.

The voting at the back of Palma Gil's house was stopped but resumed around 3 p.m. inside a military detachment in Barangay Mayo.

"We had to change the voting venue because there were hundreds of our soldiers from the town of Caraga who want to participate in the local absentee voting. We find this place (detachment in Barangay Mayo) appropriate, especially for soldiers who come from Caraga town. So I advised our soldiers assigned in the towns of Banaybanay, Lupon and Mati to proceed here because we had changed the voting venue," Mortejo said.

He said the result of the voting, which was participated in by more than 300 soldiers and militiamen, will be sent to the Comelec office in Manila by mail.

In Pili, Camarines Sur, 3,189 Army soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division, the counterinsurgency unit assigned to the six provinces of Bicol, have cast their votes for senatorial bets and party-list groups.

Lt. Col. Alex Luna, civil military officer and division spokesperson, said the election held at the Army headquarters at Camp Elias Angeles was supervised by unit commanders.

Luna said the Comelec had bestowed on Brig. Gen. Arsenio Arugay, the commanding general of the unit, the authority to supervise the elections, just like the authority of the chair of the Board of Election Canvassers in polling places.

# Palace: Gringo got, gave nothing at meet

By **Juliet Labog-Javellana**

NOTHING WAS OFFERED AND nothing was given.

This was how President Macapagal-Arroyo and Malacañang officials yesterday characterized her meeting with accused coup plotter and independent senatorial candidate Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan at the Palace Thursday night.

"We will release the letter that he gave [me]," Ms Arroyo replied when asked about her meeting with the former senator and military officer, after she addressed the convention of security agencies in a Pasay City hotel yesterday.

The President did not respond to a question on whether the meeting signaled a reconciliation with Honasan, who stands accused of involvement in the failed Oakwood mutiny of 2003 and the aborted coup d'etat in February 2006.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye confirmed the President met with Honasan at 10 p.m. on Thursday. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, whom Honasan considers to be his mentor, arranged the meeting which included Honasan's son Kim.

Kim had been leading the senatorial campaign for his father while the latter was in detention on the mutiny charges up to two weeks ago when he was released on bail.

Honasan had earlier disclosed the meeting.

"Former Senator Honasan sought an audience with the President in connection with the rebellion case against him which is now being reviewed by the DOJ (Department of Justice)," Bunye said in a statement.

Bunye said Honasan sought the meeting after "reports that came out in the media indicated that his alleged participation [in the failed coup attempt of February 2006] would be upgraded to leader, making his case non-bailable."

"Honasan disavowed any intentions to overthrow the government and he also said so in a letter which he personally handed to the President," Bunye said.

Bunye said that after reading the letter, the President told Honasan: "If you say and believe you are innocent, then you should follow the process and prove your innocence in court."

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio denied Honasan will be included in the administration Team Unity ticket or given any form of support in his campaign as an independent.

"There were no deals, tradeoffs or concessions and no proposals or offers," Claudio said. "Greg Honasan is not part of the administration ticket and the administration coalition will not allow the substitution of any TU candidate on any of its sample ballots (that are) by now scattered by the millions nationwide."

# GMA nags PNP chief to stop poll violence

By **Juliet Labog-Javellana**

ALARMED BY THE NUMBER OF violent incidents related to the May 14 elections, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she had been "nagging" Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon to take more steps to prevent the escalation of violence.

"During this election period, we pray that violence will not increase towards election day," Ms Arroyo said in a speech at the 1st Tripartite Convention of the Philippine Association of Detective and Protected Agency Operators Inc. (Padpao) and the Philippine Association of Recognized Security Training Schools Inc. (Parstsi).

The President said she had been breathing down Calderon's neck in the matter of election violence.

"*Kaya parating nasa likod ako, parati kong nina*-nag *si* General Calderon, *sinisikap natin, nagsusulong tayo ng masisigasig na hakbang upang ipagtanggol ang mga kandidato, ang taong bayan at ang mga boto ng mamamayan* (That's why I am always at his back, nagging General Calderon, trying, taking firm steps to protect the candidates, the electorate and their votes)," Ms Arroyo told the audience that included Calderon, other police officers and Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus.

## Even security guards

To stress the need for more help, the President called on the security agencies under Padpao and Parstsi to join the campaign to stop election violence.

"Together our efforts must be directed at reducing the violence, that is why I am asking the security agencies to help us ensure a peaceful election," she said.

Padpao has 2,500 security agencies under its wing with about 450,000 security guards.

The President had earlier called on the Armed Forces of the Philippines to help the PNP set up checkpoints.

The AFP had been relegated to a minor election role after some generals were linked to the alleged manipulation of the 2004 presidential election to ensure Ms Arroyo's victory.

## Bloodiest day

The President's prodding of Calderon came after 11 people were gunned down on Friday in various parts of Luzon in what was dubbed the bloodiest day of the campaign.

Six supporters and relatives of Mayor Cecilia Luna of Lagayan, Abra, were killed when gunmen opened fire on her vehicle. Reelectionist Mayor Alex Aranas of Oriental Mindoro was abducted by suspected communist rebels who killed two of his bodyguards, while a police officer running for councilor in Albay was shot dead.

## Peaceful, credible

In Bulacan, a gunfight between soldiers and the bodyguards of Bocaue Mayor Eduardo Villanueva, a son of evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva, resulted in the death of a soldier.

The President said the May 14 elections must not only be peaceful but credible.

"The political process is just as important as the political outcome. And we can ensure that the election will be democratic and the true will of the people will prevail," she said.

"Every election is a test of democracy and we will do everything to pass this test," she said. "Together we can show the world that Filipinos thrive on a democratic system based on free choice."

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ENROLLMENT FOR S.Y. 2007-2008 IS NOW GOING ON * NO TUITION FEE INCREASE

# Who bugged Cory? Too many keys stump police

By **Jeannette I. Andrade**

THE NUMBER OF POSSIBLE SUSPECTS IN the bugging of former President Corazon Aquino's telephone keeps growing.

Chief Insp. Lino Banaag of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit admitted the police were having difficulty narrowing their search for the culprit because too many people apparently had access to the Philippine Long Distance Telephone switch box in front of Aquino's residence on Times Street in Quezon City.

"Many people had keys to the box. Even former contractors and ex-PLDT employees had keys. Anyone of those people could have placed the wiretapping device inside the box," Banaag told the Inquirer in Filipino.

Apart from the number of keys floating around, the key to the switch box was "generic."

"One key could open all the PLDT boxes," Banaag said.

CIDU investigator SPO2 Jun Mortel said police had taken the statements of three PLDT employees, including the Grace Park Business Zone repairman who found the "crude" wiretapping device made of blue wire, a power supply adaptor and a cassette tape recorder.

Mortel said the statements were a narration of how the wiretapping device was found and the company's standard operating procedure in such cases.

"They gave us pictures showing the device attached to the telephone line but there was no one who could tell us when the box was last opened and who opened it," he said.

Asked what the cassette tape contained, Mortel said: "What we heard so far were conversations between two women discussing apparently personal matters that only they could understand because we could not understand what they were talking about."

# Comelec says 'Digs' guilty of snatching ballots

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Elections (Comelec) en banc has found former Maguindanao Rep. Didagen "Digs" Dilangalen guilty of ballot-snatching during the May 2004 polls.

In a 10-page resolution dated April 24, the Comelec directed the Department of Justice to file charges against Dilangalen for violation of the Omnibus Election Code, according to James Jimenez, Comelec director for education information.

While Dilangalen, who gained notoriety after his "shut up, shut up" outburst in the House of Representatives during the canvassing of votes after the 2004 elections, was found guilty, his wife Bai Sendig was cleared by the poll body of a similar charge.

## Same offense

Estrellita Juliano-Tamano, who lost in this city's mayoral race in 2004, was also charged with the same offense. But Jimenez did not say if Tamano was found guilty.

Jimenez said the case started when Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) supporters led by Dilangalen and Tamano "grabbed and took possession by force of three ballot boxes" containing votes from this city.

He said Dilangalen, who was then a senatorial candidate, and his supporters padlocked and chained the three ballot boxes to the concrete fence adjacent to the Sangguniang Panlunsod building here, where the votes were supposed to be canvassed.

## 'Doctored' ballots

Dilangalen and his supporters claimed the ballot boxes contained "doctored ballots" in favor of Mayor Muslimin Sema.

Sema ran under the Lakas coalition against Tamano, while Dilangalen's wife had run for the congressional seat her husband had vacated.

Sema defeated Tamano while Bai Sendig won. Dilangalen lost and became the spokesperson of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

He is now running for Congress to represent Cotabato City and Shariff Kabunsuan province, which was carved out of his former district in Maguindanao.

## Unlawful

The ballot-snatching incident had delayed the canvassing.

"It shall be unlawful for any person to delay, obstruct, impede or prevent through force, violence, coercion, intimidation or by any means which vitiates consent, the transmittal of the election returns or to take away, abscond with, destroy, deface or mutilate or substitute the election returns or the envelope or the ballot box containing the election returns or to violate the right of the watchers," Jimenez said, quoting a provision of the Election Code. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

**HECTIC** As the campaign period enters its final week and candidates scramble to get in the last handshakes, Genuine Opposition senatorial candidate Sonia Roco returns to the bailiwick of her late husband, Sen. and Education Secretary Raul Roco of Camarines Sur, for some last-minute flesh pressing. Roco graced "A Tribute to the Constituents" in Tigaon town.

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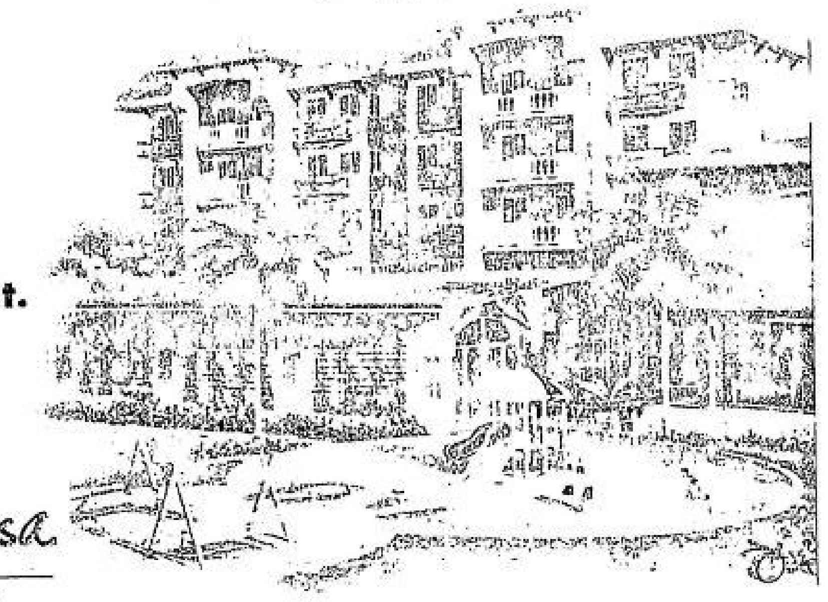

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# Japan waging, winning new battle in RP

From page A1

DAR was to get up to P5 billion from the national budget.

Under the Aquino blueprint, around 70 percent of the annual allocation went to support services; the other 30 percent funded land acquisition.

But inefficiency, wheeling and dealing and corruption hobbled the program from the start. It also lacked vision, according to analysts.

It was a testament to the program's lack of direction that five secretaries went in and out of the Department of Agrarian Reform during the time of Aquino, who herself comes from a family that owns one of the Philippines' largest sugar haciendas.

## Loophole, corruption

Aquino's family was the first beneficiary of what critics say is a legal loophole in the CARP law that allows corporate schemes such as owning shares of stock in lieu of outright land distribution.

One year into the program, DAR purchased for P62.7 million the remote 1,887-hectare Garchitorena estate in the secluded Caramoan Peninsula in Camarines Norte that was originally worth P3 million. The Supreme Court subsequently rescinded the sale after the Land Bank of the Philippines balked and refused to pay up.

When Ramos came in, his technocrats reversed the Aquino formula, spending 70 percent of the CARP budget to buy lands and using the other 30 percent for support services.

The Ramos administration also tapped foreign funding.

Tokyo was first to respond to the Philippine request, impressed that agrarian reform was being pursued in a democratic setting, unlike in Japan, where the program was undertaken by American occupation forces following its defeat during World War II.

Only 1.7 million hectares of land were redistributed in Japan in the post-war years. In contrast, 4.7 million ha of private estates were being purchased and parceled out to tenant tillers in the Philippines when the Japanese came in.

Under CARP, recipients were to organize themselves into cooperatives to secure credit and farm inputs. But as in any official undertaking, funding was lacking. Stories of sellbacks and leasebacks to original owners were rife. Farmers were putting their chains back on.

## Decline in poverty incidence

But DAR surveys also showed that for 1990 and 2000 poverty incidence among beneficiaries of land reform with appropriate support declined from 47.6 to 45.2 percent. In contrast, poor nonbeneficiary households rose from 55.1 percent in 1990 to 56.4 percent in 2000.

A team from Japan's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) came a year after Ramos' people at DAR formed program beneficiaries into groups called Agrarian Reform Communities (ARC) from one or a cluster of barangays. Each ARC has anywhere from 100 to 200 members.

The objectives were to turn the ARCs into viable, organized, self-reliant and productive entities sharing resources for their collective benefit.

ODA conducted feasibility studies and posted two Japanese technicians at DAR—irrigation engineer Yukiro Kawahara, 54, and agronomist Yojiro Sekiguchi, 53, to organize the ARCs. The two have stayed in the Philippines since the project began in 1995, assuring continuity in its execution and monitoring.

Using the ODA loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), DAR formed the Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project (ARISP) to build irrigation systems, farm-to-market roads and post harvest facilities such as solar dryers and warehouses.

## Meticulous planning

In a corollary move, JBIC set up the Rural Farmers and Agrarian Reform Support Credit Project, or RASCP, yet another in a mishmash of alphabet soup acronyms that simply illustrate the meticulous planning, implementation, monitoring and record-keeping that are the hallmarks of Japanese success stories.

Japan launched its six-year ARISP I as a pilot project in 1996 in 79 of the 1,700 ARCs that DAR had organized nationwide. ARISP II is winding down successfully in 50 ARCs this month. ARISP III is in the works with a new component, the setting up of federations on top of the ARCs that will provide institutional support and technical and financial assistance.

Periodic assessments were made by independent experts from academe and participating nongovernmental organizations, in addition to frequent forays in the field by Kawahara and Sekiguchi.

The Japanese introduced a new way of doing things. Usually, infrastructure development is dictated from the top by local politicians.

## 'From down up'

"It's from down up in our case," says Kawahara. "In other words, the beneficiaries come to us and request help in building irrigation or roads. We go out, examine the request, bring in the technicians."

(A senior DAR official says some Congressmen had attempted to interfere in the Japanese endeavor, insisting that infrastructure be set up instead for their favored constituencies.)

Three pilot ARCs in ARISP I were surveyed at the end of the project. The results were dramatic, belying landowner claims that cutting up land was not viable.

Independent studies commissioned by JBIC showed in its funded projects in 50 ARCs:

- 125 percent increase in the size of irrigated farms from 6,418 to 14,441 hectares.
- 5 to 10 percent decrease in post-harvest losses and improvement in quality of rice.
- 48 percent or 14-minute decrease in average travel time from the ARC to the market and a 50 percent decrease in average transport cost from P11.50 to P5.75 per person.
- 38 percent decrease in transport charges per cavan of rice from P7.25 to P4.5.
- 71 percent increase in the average number of vehicles plying ARCs.

For institutional development component, surveys showed

- 19 percent increase in membership from 7,662 to 9,151.
- 36 percent increase in capital buildup from P13.04 million to P17.79 million.
- 21 percent increase in savings mobilization, from P4.04 million to P4.88 million.

Average annual income, the studies showed

- in Luzon, increased by 28.61 percent in 17 ARCS from P60,878 to P78,293.
- in the Visayas, increased by 77.58 percent for five ARCs from P26,726 to P45,535.
- in Mindanao in nine ARCs, up from P27,687 to P38,279.
- Overall, using 1996 prices, 31 ARCs enjoyed a 34.92 percent increase in real income from P45,741 to P61,715, exceeding targets.

Since 1995, the JBIC has provided the DAR projects approximately $250 million, roughly P12.5 billion.

## More components needed

Hiroshi Togo, JBIC chief representative in Manila, says that the targets were met with the provision of only the basic infrastructure facilities.

"There is a need to incorporate other components such as agricultural technology and extension services, accessible and affordable capital and marketing support," he says.

Togo says JBIC is considering financing the third phase of ARISP beginning this year, that will include the additional components.

DAR says it has generated foreign support for 49 projects since 1992 totaling P40 billion. The biggest component of official development assistance came from Japan (30 percent) followed by the World Bank (20 percent), Asian Development Bank (17 percent), Spain (8 percent), European Union (6 percent), Belgium (5 percent) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (4 percent).

Kawahara and Sekiguchi, who hold office at DAR, are upbeat in spite of cultural obstacles at the grass roots.

For example, Kawahara says it is tough to break the tradition of selling crops to middle men. But this has more to do with scarce savings and the need to resort to credit.

## Political will

"The price of rice is highest during the rainy season," he says. But upon harvest, farmers go to the middle men to sell their produce instead of storing rice in warehouses to be sold at peak prices. He says even a P1 profit per cavan means a lot to the farmers.

Kawahara is mapping out plans to form federations in 54 provinces that will assist the agrarian communities.

Each program for each of the federations should be "customized," he says, citing cultural idiosyncrasies in each region.

"What's needed is a strong political will to make the concept work," says Kawahara, who is engaged in organizing the communities. "I am optimistic," he says.

But the ARCs number only 1,700 and comprise only 14 percent of the farmer beneficiaries. Large numbers of them are far removed from assistance and the Japanese experience in the ARCs will have to be replicated on a massive scale to make an ultimate difference.

At least, the Japanese are showing the way.

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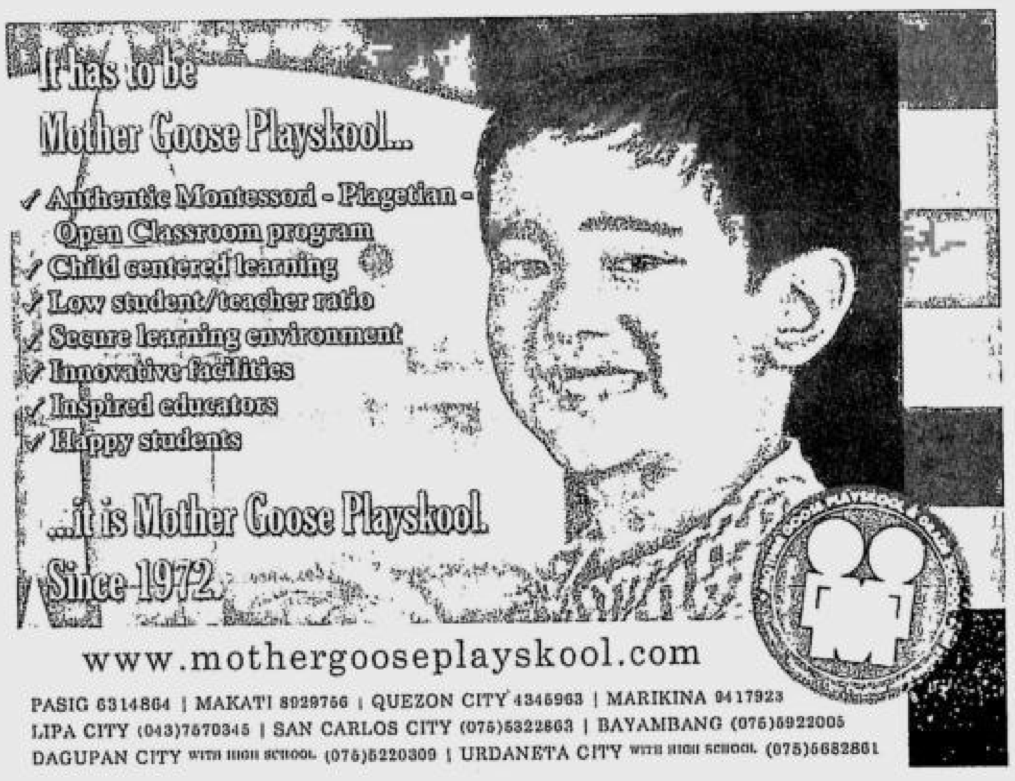

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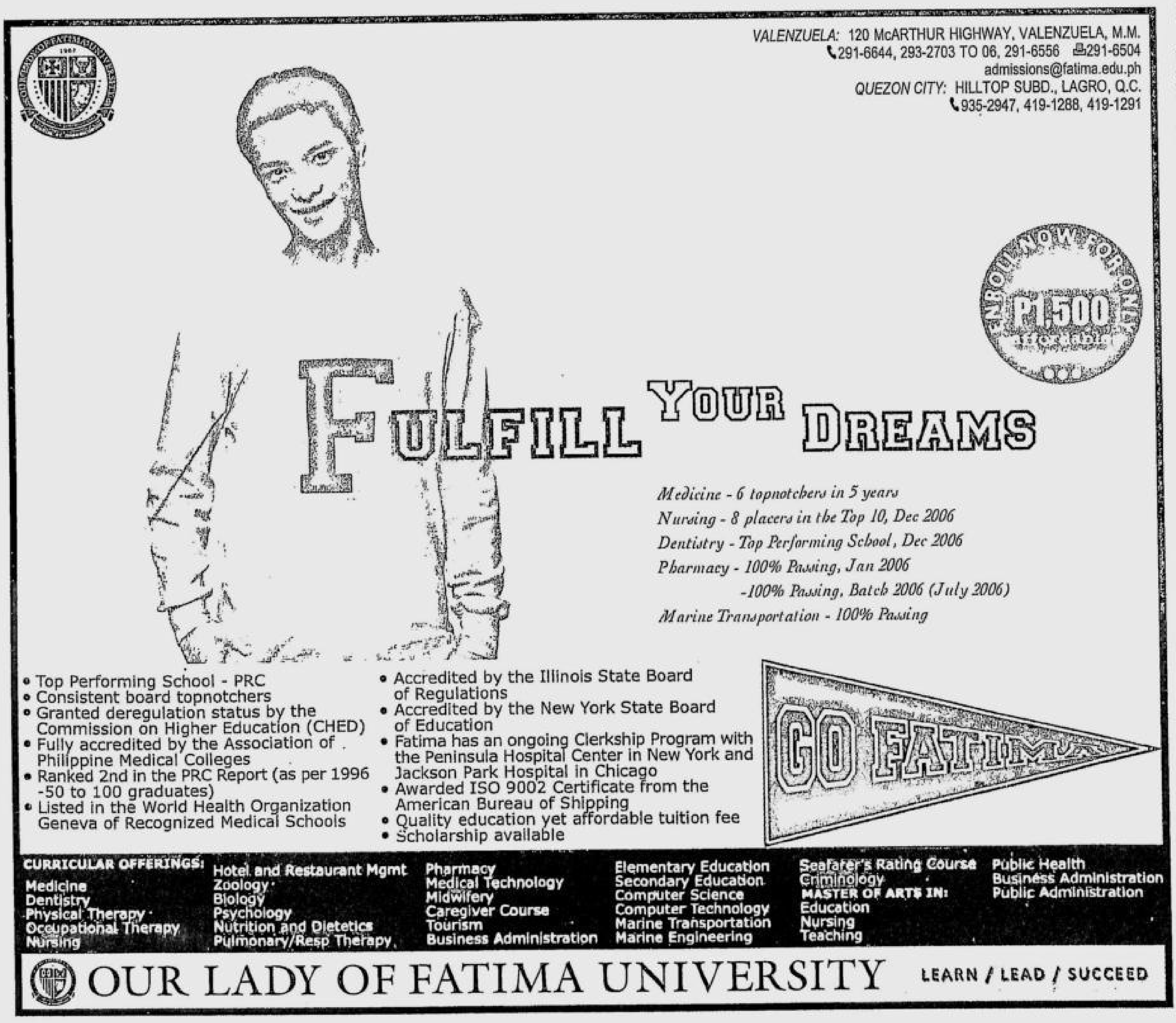

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# Candidate ...

From page A1

complished businessman," Second Division presiding commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. said in his decision.

Pasay City congressional candidate Ricardo "Ding" Santos, a former city representative, had sought to declare fellow candidate Edgardo Santos a nuisance candidate.

Santos alleged that Edgardo, who also used the nickname "Ding" when he filed his COC, had no capacity to launch a city-wide campaign.

## Not convincing

Although Edgardo said he had been using the nickname "Ding," the Comelec, in its decision, said Edgardo did not establish that he had been using the nickname for a long time.

Edgardo also said he could launch a campaign despite being an independent candidate, but the Comelec said he was unable to prove that he had the logistics.

The poll body also said that Edgardo's assertion that he was an accomplished businessman was "not supported by the evidence at hand."

The Comelec also noted that Edgardo not only misspelled a word, but he also wrote the wrong address in his COC.

"No doubt, respondent is indeed a nuisance candidate as amply demonstrated by the above observations," the Comelec said in its decision.

"What is sad is that some hidden hand appears to be controlling these events and this commission cannot simply sit idly by and allow the situation to persist and result [in] the mockery of the electoral process," it added.

In its decision, the Comelec defined a nuisance candidate as someone whose candidacy "is presented and filed to cause confusion among the electorate by the similarity of the names of the registered candidates or by other names."

It added that the presence of nuisance candidates "robs the electorate of their will and deprives them of their true intent, by invalidating certain votes that should have been counted in favor of the candidate that the citizenry wanted to vote for."

## 48 cases

The Comelec National Capital Region has recorded at least 48 cases filed against candidates in the metropolis. Of these, only the case against Edgardo has been resolved.

There are other similar cases—seeking the declaration of a candidate as a nuisance—pending before the Comelec. Candidates with the same surnames or nicknames could result in confusion during the canvassing of votes.

There are also cases seeking the cancellation of COCs for grounds like insufficient residency requirements.

There are also cases seeking for the disqualification of candidates because of alleged violations committed during the campaign, like vote buying and illegal posting of campaign posters.

# N. Luzon coop fends for itself

**By Hanna Lacsamana**
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

ROSARIO, LA UNION—THE heart beats in the agrarian reform community (ARC) called PusuNang Tatay, which roughly translates into "father's soul" in Filipino, but it needs a fresh infusion of cash to keep it going.

This ARC is a 200-member farm cooperative that Japan has selected as a pilot project to demonstrate that with proper funding and technical support farmers weaned away from their landlords under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) can stand on their feet.

PusuNang Tatay was derived from the six villages of Rosario—Puson, Subusob, Udyao, Nangcamutian, Tabtabungao and Tay-ac. It was formed in 1998 to provide a working example of a properly managed agricultural community able to sustain itself.

It lived up to CARP's development objectives, doubling rice production with improved irrigation and use of high-yielding varieties, and raising incomes of the ARC's members.

In 2002, PusuNang Tatay was cited by international experts as the country's best ARC for its accomplishments.

## No follow through

But the community was not able to follow through.

The Land Bank of the Philippines has not approved a loan of P200,000. To get the loan, the ARC has to show that its members are committed to the project and demonstrate that they would be able to pay the loan, which is granted on goodwill.

In the ARCs, after initial support, there must be a demonstration of its ability to become self-reliant.

But PusuNang Tatay appears to have rested on its laurels.

It is a pity.

Sofronio Carbonell Jr., who chaired PusuNang Tatay when it received acclaim, has developed his own method for producing hybrid rice, which has interested experts at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Laguna.

Joey Ramos, the cooperative's vice president who was named as the country's best farmer in 2002, is now seeding the community farms with hybrid rice seedlings which he produces in his property, using technology he adopted from government scientists.

## Life must go on

Carbonell says DAR has abandoned PusoNang Tatay, but life in the ARC must go on, somehow. He says he could not discard the advances he and his fellow farmers made right after DAR helped their town.

He recounts that DAR had just distributed lands donated by a prominent landowner here when it realized that the six barangays form the rice granary of the town.

DAR enlisted PusuNang Tatay for its Japan-funded Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project (ARISP) 1 to advance sustainable development strategies for provincial farms.

Carbonell says the project's main goal was to enhance production and augment farm earnings by subsidizing or coordinating funding for their irrigation requirements, post-harvest facilities and farm-to-market roads.

Katsumi Nozawa, a faculty member of Asia University, was impressed by PusuNang Tatay's farm proceeds when he analyzed the impact of ARISP 1 on La Union in 2002.

## Increased *palay* yield

Nozawa documented a substantial increase in the cooperative's *palay* yield per hectare, after the cooperative raised the community's water supply and after the town's farmers adapted their fields to high yielding rice varieties. The farms produced 4.66 metric tons of rice per hectare, according to DAR records. The national average rice yield is roughly 3 mt per ha.

The Japanese expert says PusuNang Tatay's "enhanced yield led to increases in on-farm income."

"Generally speaking, the initial conditions in the La Union ARISP agrarian reform community were favorable," Nozawa's report says.

During this period, Carbonell says PusuNang Tatay enjoyed quality and high rice crop yield, enough rice supply for the farmers' families and even surplus to sell to a neighboring town market.

The loan petition would have helped PusuNang Tatay extend its good fortune, he says.

## Planting expenses

He says a farmer invests at least P15,000 on each hectare each time he plants the indigenous rice variety. But producing hybrid rice requires the farmer P50,000 because planting this variety requires a set of procedures.

The cooperative also asked the local government to help the farmers build a *palay* trading center and a processing zone. The pledges they got were never fulfilled, Carbonell says.

Ramos says PusuNang Tatay's members have threatened to leave the cooperative because of government's failed promises. But he says the farmers actually proved that they could manage their farms without government help.

Carbonell's hybrid rice innovation, for example, could bring back some attention to the small farming community, Ramos says. *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

# Tambidao farmers show way to success

**By Cristina Arzadon**
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

BACARRA, ILOCOS NORTE—THE Tambidao Multipurpose Cooperative has come a long way from its beginnings as a farmers' group providing household needs to the village through its *sari-sari* (variety) store in 1992.

The cooperative, named after its village, pooled the resources of its 15 members to raise the capital for its first venture.

When the store grew, the members raised their contribution to shore up the loan it had secured to put up a rice mill, now one of the busiest milling areas in this town.

It was only in 1996, however, when the cooperative started expanding their services through the Department of Agrarian Reform's agrarian reform communities' development project (DAR-ARCDP).

The six-year project, funded by the World Bank, is part of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's commitment to make agricultural economies like the Philippines equally stable as industrial-based countries.

Gertrudes Albano, DAR's information officer here, says the program's beneficiaries are farmers' organizations that have reached an acceptable level of maturity and are capable of coming up with equity funds or matching fund allocations with labor equity.

"The department tapped existing cooperatives which are capable of embracing government intervention and matching this with their own equities," Albano said.

## Technical, financial aid

Mindful of the cooperative's potentials and willingness to participate in the project, DAR identified the Tambidao cooperative as a recipient of technical and financial assistance ranging from livelihood project planning, accessing of financial and technical resources, delivery of farm extension services, and rural infrastructures such as potable water system, bridge and farm-to-market roads.

The villages of Paninaan and Nambaran were later lumped with the Tambidao cooperative to form the Panata (taken from the initials of the villages) agrarian reform community (ARC) organized by Japan.

Leonila Agcaoili, a municipal agrarian reform officer, said the Panata agrarian community further received support in agriculture and enterprise development, crop planting methods and infrastructure systems.

She said the three villages were selected as an ARC for having a large number of agrarian reform beneficiaries and leasehold agreements under the department's land distribution system.

## Reinventing community

"We always showcase the Panata agrarian community as a success story for having reinvented itself from a generally subsistence economy to a commercial one," she said.

The Panata community is using five farm-to-market roads, a bridge, a potable water system and an irrigation system.

Paulino Damo, one of Tambidao cooperative's officials, said their assets now stand at P1.8 million after operating with a capital of P150,000 when it started with a consumers' store and rice mill.

The cooperative is engaged in *palay* trading and offers a lending service to its 105 members.

The cooperative's other assets include a building, a warehouse, a solar dryer and other delivery equipment. It now owns a 728-square-meter lot where the rice mill stands.

It is also using a two-story building that serves as the cooperative's office and a storage space for its grains. The cooperative plans to free the ground floor to house a bigger merchandising store.

## Business training

The building was constructed out of a nearly P1-million grant from the ARCDP. The cooperative matched the project with labor services from its members.

Damo said the members also availed of a loan facility from the Land Bank of the Philippines in 1998 under the ARC program to buy 22 motorcycles.

"We used to walk long stretches of dirt road from our homes to the fields. Now, we can boast of having our own tricycles, which we paid in three years out of our earnings," he said.

Damo said the cooperative has been following a sound management and operational system after going through technological and business training that included marketing, business advisory services and bookkeeping.

## Community approach

Christianne Suguitan, provincial agrarian reform officer, said the program uses a community-centered approach to rural development.

Suguitan took over as ARCDP provincial project director and now supervises the implementation of the project's second phase, which began last year and is projected for completion this year.

The department matched its land distribution component under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program with a delivery of support services and facilities to improve farm productivity and income.

Ilocos Norte was one of 10 provinces in the country whose ARCs were given funding support of more than P300 million from the more than $60 million World Bank financing package.

The projects were spread and completed in 2004 in the towns of Solsona, Marcos, Pasuquin, Pagudpud, Banna, Dumalneg, Pinili, Dingras, Carasi, Bangui, Paoay and Bacarra.

The project's first phase was completed under the term of former ARCDP project director, Milton Pascua, who is now assigned at the DAR regional office.

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# Inquirer teaches kids to love reading

THE INQUIRER YESTERDAY LAUNCHED a program dubbed "INQUIRER Read-Along" it hopes would teach children to love to read.

To be held twice a month, the program gathers children aged 7 to 13 for a storyreading session with celebrities and famous role models for the youth.

Singer-actress Manilyn Reynes, the storyteller in the GMA-7 children's show, "Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang," kicked off the program.

She read "Ang Binibining Tumalo sa Mahal na Hari" to an enthralled audience of kids and parents at the INQUIRER library.

The story is included in the book, "Ang mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang," published by Anvil Publishing Inc.

"I grew up reading *komiks* and short stories," Reynes said. "I learned a lot from reading."

The busy mother of two said she encourages her two young boys to read.

"I also read stories to my children. Books are a source of good values," she said.

JUNIOR INQUIRER staff writer Ruth Navarra gave the children tips on how to read. The kids also took turns reading aloud parts of the most recent issue of JI which focused on global warming.

Last year, JI won the "Outstanding Children's Newspaper/Section" award for the fifth consecutive time since the Unicef and the Philippine Press Institute started the child-friendly press awards in 2001.

JI, which comes out with the Sunday issue of the INQUIRER, has been elevated to the Hall of Fame.

"We learned a lot and enjoyed the session," said 9-year-old Janela de la Cruz, who came all the way from Antipolo with her 12-year-old sister, Marie Jo. "We came because we love reading and listening to stories," she said.

Edwin Sacramed, 42, brought his 8-year-old son Mark Gregor, who usually spends Saturday mornings playing PlayStation. "I want my son to develop the habit of reading. I also want him to meet new friends," he said. "I really appreciate this program."

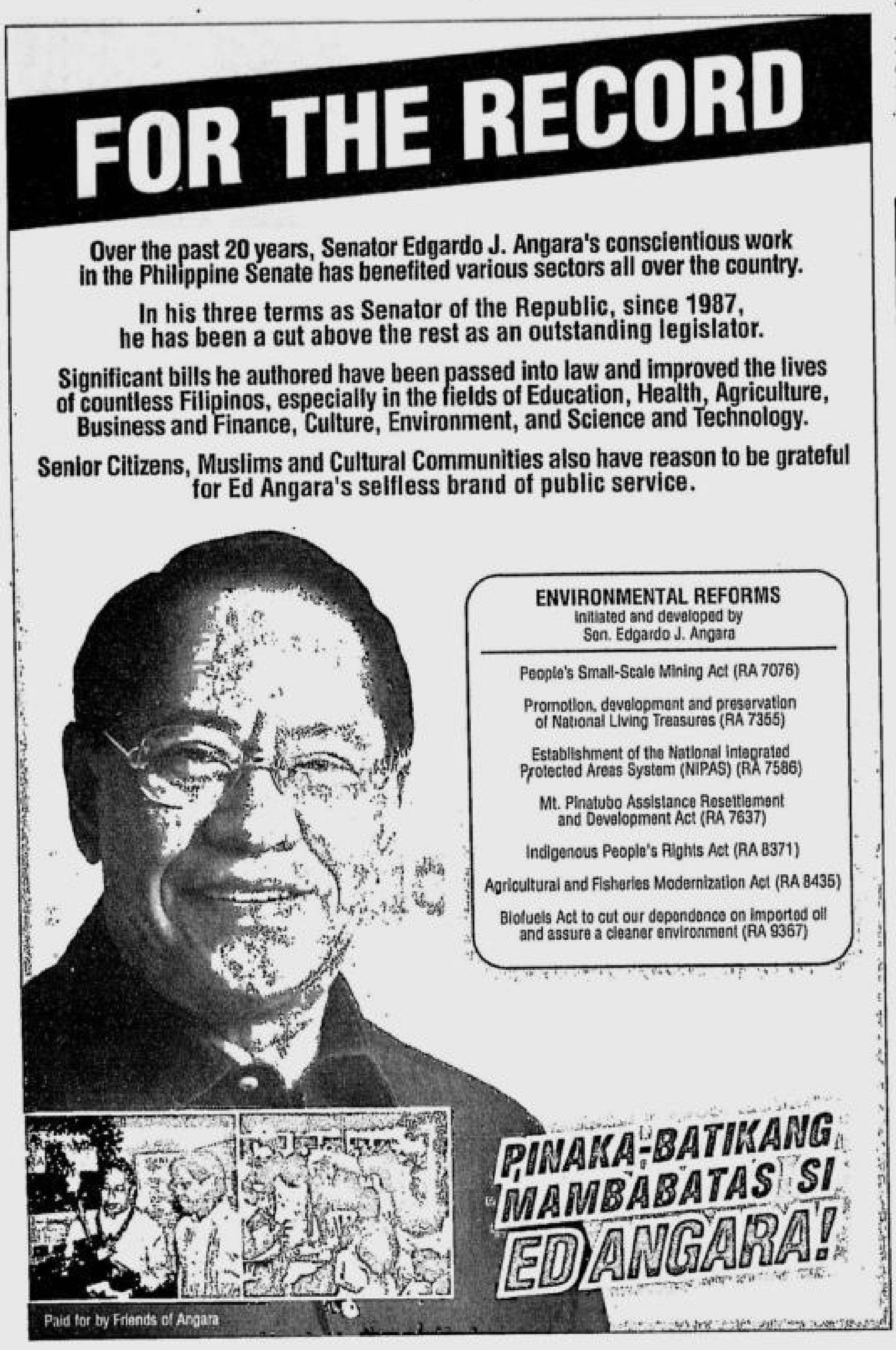
The next INQUIRER Read-Along will be on May 26 from 10 to 11 a.m. Guest storyteller will be Mikaela Irene Fudolig, who made history when she graduated summa cum laude from the University of the Philippines at the age of 16.

Interested participants may contact Ellen Caparros or Girlie Refran at 897-8808, local 329. Slots are on a first-come, first-served basis. *Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research*

## Corrections

IN THE MAY 5 ISSUE, a front-page caption to the photo showing the observance of World Press Freedom Day erroneously stated that the names in the photo were those of "journalists who fell in the night of martial rule." The names were those of slain journalists in the post-martial law era—not during martial rule.

In the same issue, a front-page story—"EU ambassador expresses shock over Burgos case"—misstated the name of the Bulacan chapter of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas. The Bulacan chapter of KMP is Alyansang Magbubukid ng Bulacan—not Pilipinas.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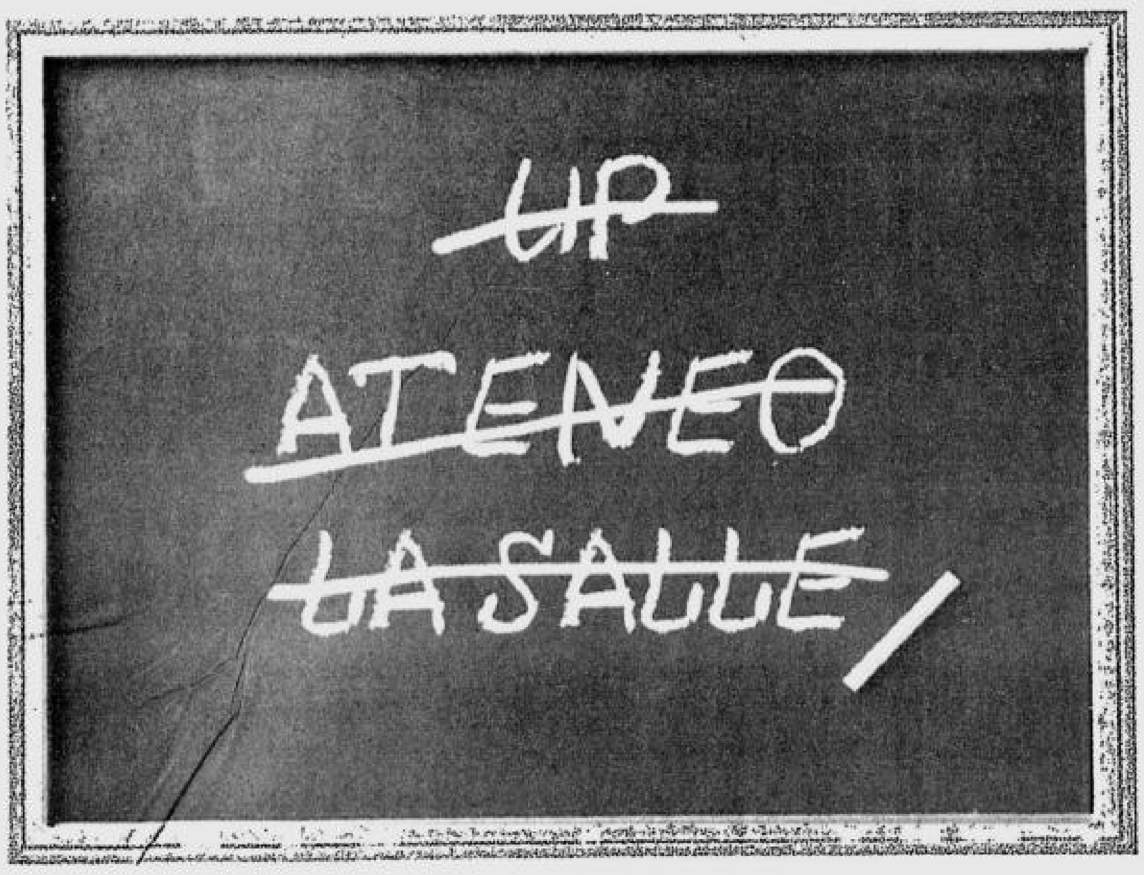

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# Napocor vows adequate power after Bicol suffers outages

**By Abigail L. Ho**

TO ASSUAGE FEARS of power outages on Election Day, particularly during the canvassing, the National Power Corp. assured there would be an ample supply of electricity during the polls and on the days the votes will be counted.

But with a few days left before the elections, some parts of Bicol, particularly Sorsogon, were still experiencing power outages.

Former Sorsogon, Sorsogon, Mayor Fernando Duran Jr. said the Bicol region had been experiencing brownouts lasting two to three hours a day since May 2.

In a statement, Transco yesterday attributed the brownouts to the collapse of six steel towers along the Naga-Tayabas line, which cut off the Bicol region from the Luzon grid.

The fallen towers were among those weakened by supertyphoons "Milenyo" and "Reming" last year, Transco said.

Transco has dispatched crews to work round-the-clock to restore power to the region.

Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon will have a total power supply of 7,193 megawatts (MW), more than enough to meet the projected peak demand of 5,600 (MW), data from Napocor's economics department showed.

In the Visayas, available power has been placed at 1,159 MW with peak demand expected to hit 928 MW while the Mindanao grid has 1,400 MW compared to its peak demand of around 900 MW.

Napocor has also suspended all scheduled maintenance work in all its power plants on May 12-17, to ensure all generating units will be available on those days.

Napocor and its partners National Transmission Corp., the National Electrification Administration and Manila Electric Co. have reactivated the inter-agency Task Force Halalan 2007 to ensure adequate power supply on May 14 and the days after that.

The Commission on Elections has deputized Transco to make sure polling precincts and canvassing sites have an uninterrupted supply of electricity.

The Comelec earlier issued similar deputization orders to Napocor and the NEA.

Duran said Bicol was producing geothermal power from Tiwi, Albay and Bacman Manito, Sorsogon. But Bacman with a capacity of 150 MW was not operational, he said.

Tiwi can only supply 82 MW of power to the region which has a daily power demand of more than 100 MW.

"How could the administration ask for the votes of the Bicolanos when some parts of the region are in total darkness in the evenings and others have only a rotated supply of electricity?" Sen. Joker Arroyo, a Bicolano, asked.

Arroyo said Sorsogon had been totally without electricity for four days although there is a power generating plant in the province. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

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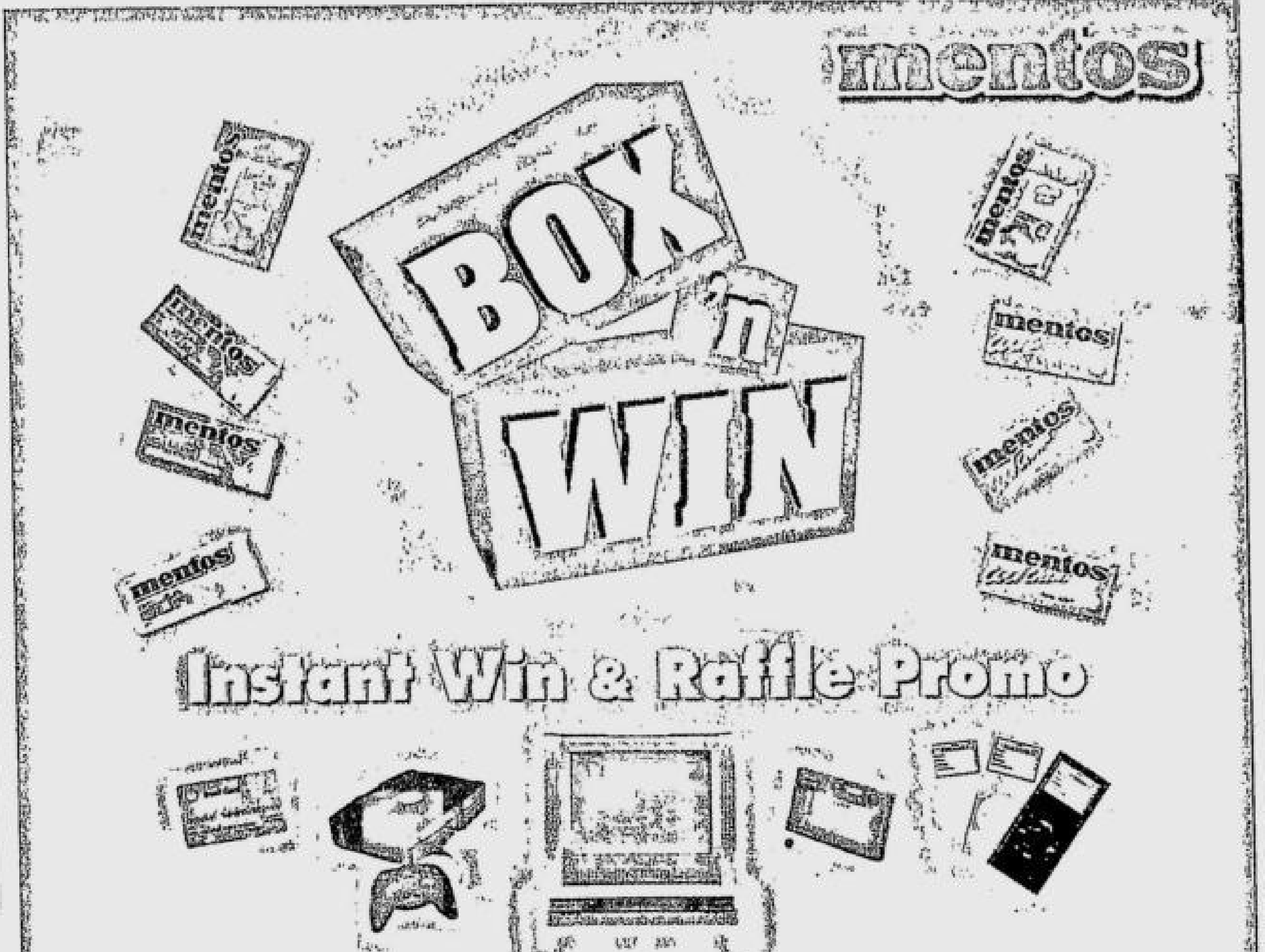

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1. Promo duration is from April 1 up to May 31, 2007- 5pm. Grand draw is on June 15, 2007.
2. For instant prizes, winners can automatically claim their prize from the branch where they got their scratch cards.
3. A winner may win more than once for the Instant Scratch Wins while ONLY ONCE in the grand draw. Should a person's name be drawn twice, he or she will get the prize with the higher value.
4. Grand draw prizes can only be claimed by the winner upon surrendering the claim stub and presentation of 2 valid IDs with their name, address, signature and picture.
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The list of winners will also be posted in all participating Shell Select outlets. PVMPI reserves the right to publish and/or broadcast any winners' names, addresses, photos and likeness for advertising & publicity purposes without further compensation to the winner.
6. Prizes are not convertible to cash. A proxy may claim the prize for the winner provided that an authorization letter with the winner's signature and original ID can be presented. A valid ID must contain his name, address, signature and picture.
7. Should the specific model of the prize be no longer available during the grand draw, PVMPI has the right to replace another prize of equal value with the knowledge and approval of BFAD.
8. Prizes unclaimed 60 days from the time that the winner has been notified shall be forfeited in favor of PVMPI with the approval of BFAD.
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10. Actual prizes may vary from picture shown.

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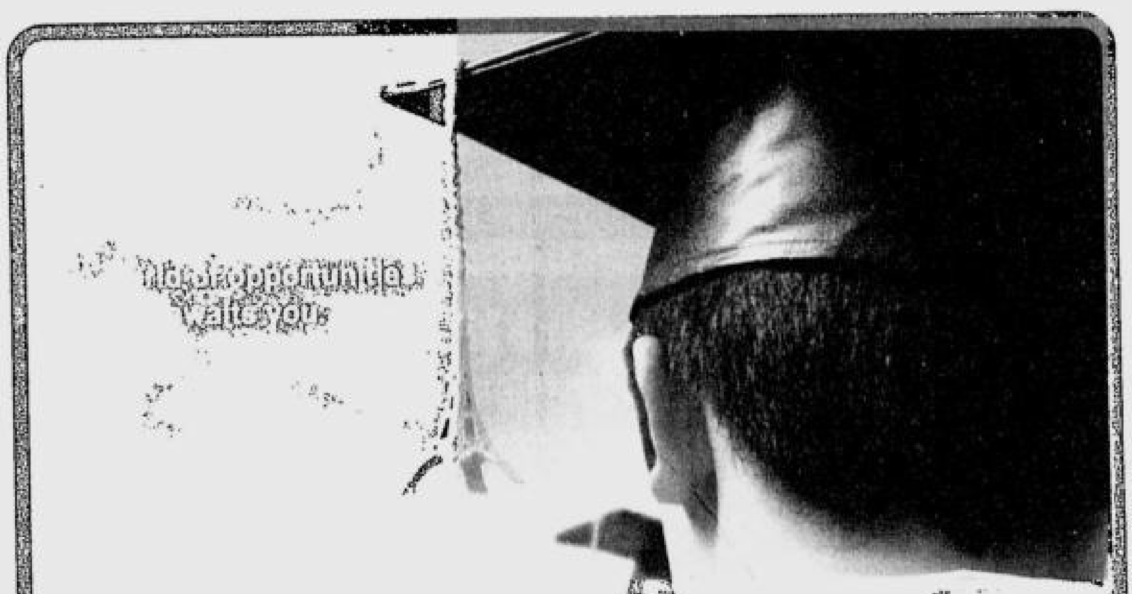
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# Use of biodiesel fuel starts today; prices to stay stable

By Abigail L. Ho

STARTING TODAY, GASOLINE STATIONS should begin selling only the mandated one-percent coco biodiesel blend, with diesel prices remaining unchanged.

This is the first phase of the implementation of the Biofuels Act of 2006.

The Department of Energy said it did not expect any problems.

"We anticipate a very smooth implementation of the Biofuels Act starting May 6. The stakeholders, including the oil companies, have been very supportive of the law, so we see no hitches in its implementation," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said.

Lotilla said that the DOE would initially be "a little flexible" in allowing small dealers to finish off any remaining stock of unblended diesel.

Under the Biofuels Act, which became law in February, all diesel-fed vehicles should use a minimum one-percent biodiesel blend within three months of the effectivity of the law. Gasoline, on the other hand, should have at least a five-percent ethanol blend within two years of the law's effectivity.

The move is expected to reduce harmful vehicle emissions that are blamed for the rising rate of respiratory diseases and global warming. Studies show that even a one-percent blend of coconut methylester (CME) or coco biofuel helps vehicle engines burn fuel more efficiently, reducing smoke belching by 44 to 77 percent.

The mandated blend will rise to two percent for biodiesel after two years, and to at least 10 percent for bioethanol after four years.

"Oil companies are committed to implement the mandated blend under the law. In fact, oil companies have assured me that diesel prices will not increase due to the implementation of the Biofuels Law," Lotilla said.

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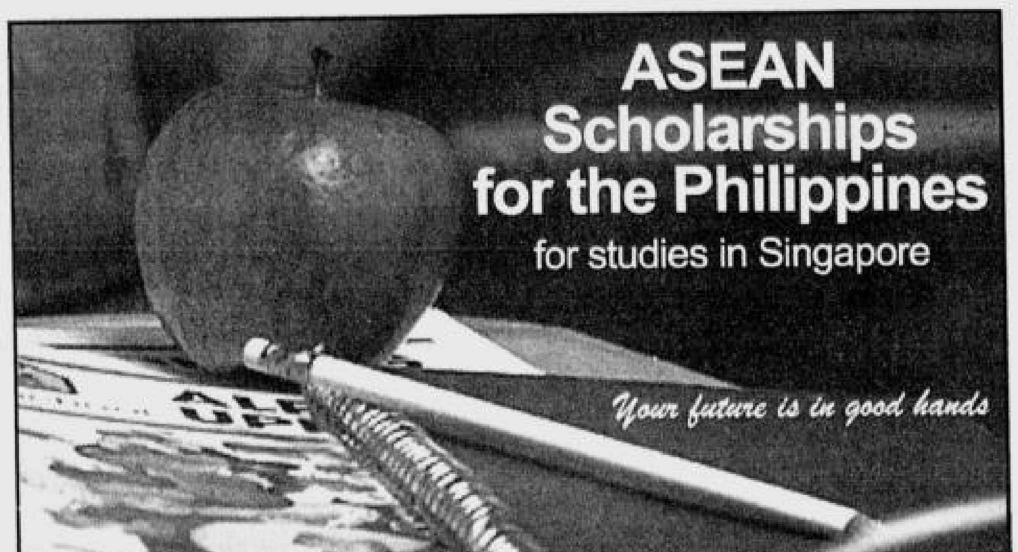

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**Scholarships Section 3rd Level, Podium Block**
**1 North Buona Vista Drive Singapore 138675**

**Embassy of the Republic of Singapore**
**35th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center**
**6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas**
**Makati City, Metro-Manila, The Philippines**

Request for application forms by post from the Singapore Embassy must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope (at least 16cm by 23cm). The envelopes should be marked 'ASEAN Scholarships for the Philippines' at the top left-hand corner.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to sit for a selection test in July and attend an interview in September 2007. Successful candidates will arrive in Singapore in mid-October to attend a bridging course (where required) before joining Singapore schools in January 2008.

More information on the scholarship can be obtained through our website:
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### CLOSING DATE

Completed application forms, together with relevant supporting documents, must reach the Singapore Ministry of Education **by 11 June 2007.**

**We regret that incomplete applications and/or applications received after the closing date will not be entertained.**

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DepED

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : May 2, 2007
Loan No. : PH-P200

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED, through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Division of Zamboanga Sibugay invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics, industrial arts, libraries, guidance and faculty rooms of the following schools: **Pioneer NHS-San Pedro Annex, San Antonio NHS, Titay NHS-Palomoc Annex, Surabay NHS, Payao NHS-Bulawan Annex, Payao NHS, Olutarga NHS, Diplahan NHS-Guinoman Annex, Diplahan NHS-Gaulan Annex, Malangas NHS, Ipil NHS, Makilas NHS-Annex, Bacalan NHS-Annex, Minsulao NHS, Laih Batu NHS and Monching Annex.**
3. Bidders are required to submit their bids for the complete quantities of all the furniture items intended for the selected schools listed in Paragraph 2, per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the **SEDIP-Division Office, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, with telefax number: (062) 333-5492.**
5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **May 9, 2007 until 5:00 P.M. of May 16, 2007** upon payment to the DepED Division Office Cashier of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).**
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage to the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instruction to Bidders, must be delivered to the Division Office on **May 30, 2007 not later than 10:00 A.M.** Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held at the address indicated in Paragraph 4 on **May 18, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.**
8. The Division BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA P. ZAMORA**
DBAC Chairman

(PDI – May 6 & 13, 2007)

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## Mactan Economic Zone

## PEZA Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

***Contract for the Supply and Delivery of Various Electrical Equipment and Supplies for Mactan Economic Zone***

1. The *Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)*, through its Corporate Operating Budget for the CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of Php 9,519,000.00 being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *Supply and Delivery of Various Electrical Equipment for Mactan Economic Zone.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs), certified copy of Phil-GEPS Certificate of Registration, and proof of enrolment with the e-FPS from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

| | ITEMS | QUANTITY | ABC (Php) |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. | BILLING METER | | P6,000,000.00 |
| | | 100 units | |
| | - Watthour Demand Meter, Electronic | | |
| B. | POWER EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES | | P1,964,000.00 |
| | - Distribution Transformer 50 kVA | 6 units | (P500,000.00) |
| | - Current Transformer, 13.8 kV | 12 units | (P720,000.00) |
| | - Potential Transformer, 13.8 kV | 12 units | (P600,000.00) |
| | - Current Transformer, 600 V, dual ratio: 400/600.5A | 12 pieces | (P72,000.00) |
| | - Current Transformer, 600V, dual ratio: 600/1200.5A | 12 pieces | (P72,000.00) |
| C. | TOOLS AND SUPPLIES | | P955,000.00 |
| | - Test Switch | 50 pieces | (P375,000.00) |
| | - Royal Cord | 5 rolls | (P100,000.00) |
| | - Crimping/Compression Tool | 1 set | (P200,000.00) |
| | - Snap-on Grounding Clamps | 1 set | (P130,000.00) |
| | - Large Ampact Tool | 1 unit | (P150,000.00) |
| D. | TEST EQUIPMENT | | P600,000.00 |
| | - Digital Low Resistance Ohmeter | 1 set | (P600,000.00) |
| | | TOTAL | P9,519,000.00 |

3. Bidders should have completed a single similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC within the last three (3) years and met the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **7:30 AM to 4:30 PM on 07 May 2007 to 21 May 2007**.
5. Interested bidders must submit their LOIs, certified copy of their Phil-GEPS Certificate of Registration and e-FPS enrolment not later than **21 May 2007** at the address given below and secure the complete set of Bidding Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable fee the amount of fee are as follows:

| | Item | ABC | Fee |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. | BILLING METER | P6,000,000.00 | P5,000.00 |
| B. | POWER EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES | P1,964,000.00 | P1,000.00 |
| C. | TOOLS AND SUPPLIES | P955,000.00 | P1,000.00 |
| D. | TEST EQUIPMENT | P600,000.00 | P1,000.00 |

6. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
7. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **08 June 2007 at 2:00 PM** at the address given below.
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **2:00 PM of 21 June 2007.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in amount of not less than 1% of the ABC specific to the line item. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **21 June 2007, 2:00 PM** at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above date/s is declared as a non-working holiday, it will automatically be rescheduled on the next working day (same time).
10. Delivery is required within **ninety (90) calendar days** from date of receipt of the Notice to Proceed.
11. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **BELENA B. SUELLO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – May 6 & 20, 2007)

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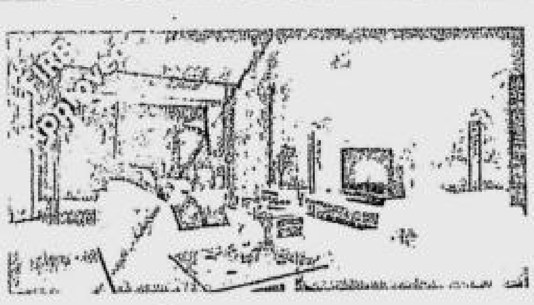

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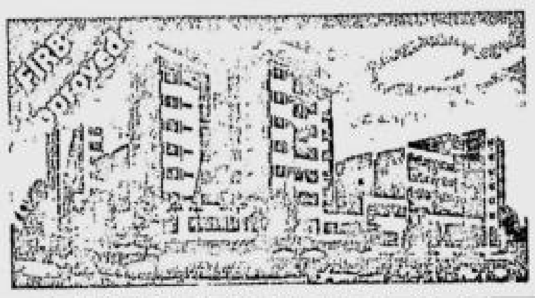

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There's a reason why Convergys Corporation has been hailed as one of Fortune Magazine's Most Admired Companies for the past seven years.

As a global leader in providing the best customer care, human resources, and billing outsourcing services, the Cincinnati-based company has established a reputation as one of the pre-eminent players in the customer contact center industry. In addition to understanding the client needs, Convergys also makes it a point to understand the needs of its workforce. That's why Convergys offers its employees not only a well-compensated job but all the opportunities to grow both in career and personal development. The company offers the specialized training programs that build confidence among its employees to perform at a high level.

Of course, employees need offices, and fortunately, Convergys has a lot of them.

## The first one

Convergys Enterprise, Makati

Convergys' first site was opened in August 2003 during the peak of the contact center influx here in the Philippines. Located at the 6th, 7th, and 31st floor of the Enterprise Center in Makati City, this Convergys site served as a reminder to everyone that Convergys was intent on making a tremendous impact on the fledging contact center industry in the Philippines.

The company, however, did not pin all its hopes on a fancy new office. Every employee of Convergys worked tirelessly to establish the company as one of the premiere working environments in the country. Despite all the challenges they faced, the company endured and grew stronger. As a result, Convergys was able to generate more jobs for Filipinos, and in the process, directly affect the growth of the company in the Philippines.

Convergys Equitable, Ortigas

Convergys One, Makati

It was becoming apparent that one contact center would not be enough to satisfy the increasing client demand for expanded capacity in the Philippines. This business demand, brought about by the success of the company in the country, also brought about the need for additional facilities.

## Branching out

So, in September 2003, Convergys set up an office at the 24th to 28th floor of the Robinson's Equitable Tower at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City. The tower, standing beside Robinson's Galleria, became the second Convergys site in the country.

Taking cue from the old maxim "strike the iron while it's hot", Convergys quickly opened another site in the Philippines. Needing space for the company to conduct its employee trainings, the third site was established at the Insular Life Building, right across the Enterprise Center, home of the company's first site, on April 2004. The company occupies the 4th and 6th floor of the building, and unlike the first two sites, Convergys' Insular site is not primarily a contact center. It was established to serve as the training center for all of the company's employees.

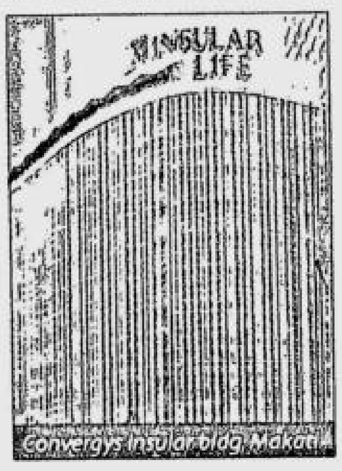
## A lot of activity

As the company continued to grow, the latter months of 2004 proved to be one of the busiest times in Convergys' history here in the Philippines. In a span of four months, Convergys opened three more new sites, two of which were buildings exclusively built for the company.

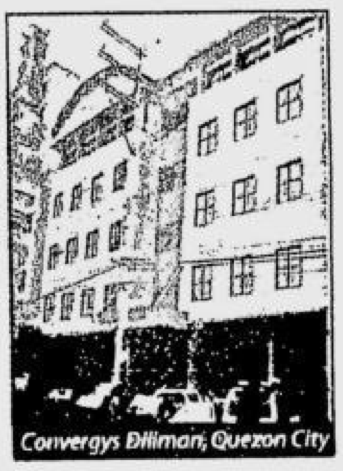
Taking advantage of the rising business district in Alabang, Muntinlupa, Convergys opened a center at the Northgate Cyberzone, at the Filinvest Corporate City in August 2004. The move was largely motivated by the company's desire to tap into the talent pool of people from nearby towns. People who didn't want to travel to Makati or the other centers were immediately drawn to the new center, located right in their neighborhood.

Convergys Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang

In October 2004, Convergys opened yet another site, this time at the PBCom Tower in Makati City, a stone's throw away from the other two Makati sites. The three Convergys' sites, situated so close to each other, served as a testament to how dedicated the company is to the Metro Manila area and to the Philippines.


Convergys Insular bldg, Makati

Convergys PBCom, Makati


Convergys Diliman, Quezon City

## Taking expansion further down south

In November 2004, just one month after opening the Convergys site at PBCom Tower, the company moved south to open Convergys' first contact center outside Metro Manila, a facility in Cebu.

The expansion to Cebu served as a testament to the company's commitment to hiring the best-possible workforce. The decision to build a site outside Metro Manila was the perfect opportunity for the company to reach out to people who couldn't go to Metro Manila. The 3,500 sq/m site in Banawa, Cebu was successful from the start.

## Two for '05

Seeing the opportunity in Quezon City, Convergys was quick to put a contact center in the heart of the former Philippine capital. In February 2005, Convergys opened its 6th site in Congressional Avenue, Quezon City. Occupying the 2nd to 5th floor of the Diliman Commercial Center, Convergys was beginning to make its presence evident in all corners of Metro Manila.

The rapidity in which Convergys was able to open its contact centers was astounding. From April 2004 to February 2005, a span of 10 months, Convergys opened five sites.

The 8-floor Convergys One Building located at Ayala Avenue, just down the road from the three other Convergys sites in Makati, was opened in December 2005. With a total floor area of 14,250 sq/m, it is the biggest Convergys site in the Philippines.

## Twice as nice in Cebu City

This May, Convergys is once again heading to Cebu to open another center. This time at the AsiaTown IT Park in Lahug, Cebu. The company will be occupying the 11th & 12th Floor of the i2 Building.

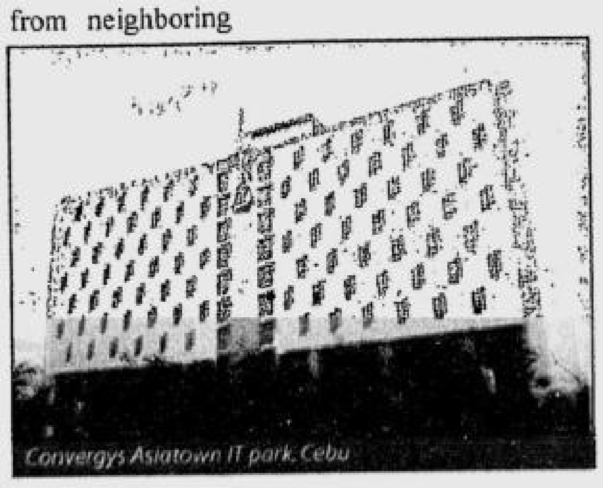
With the opening of the Convergys Asiatown site, the company continues to broaden its reach and take in more and more of Cebu's finest talents. The Asiatown site will also give people from neighboring provinces the opportunity to work for a world-class company.

Convergys believes in the Cebuano spirit. The laid-back, yet passionate attitude Cebuanos have is always welcome at Convergys. Cebuanos are also known to be warm and accommodating, something that is a must when handling international calls.

By injecting a distinct Cebu flavor to the business process of Convergys, the company continues to prove without a shadow of a doubt that it will go to great lengths to hire the best possible workforce.

Convergys has been able to fill seven sites and one training center with outstanding employees and here's a safe bet they won't have a difficult time filling up this eighth site. ◼

Convergys Banawa, Cebu


Convergys Asiatown IT park, Cebu

# First time father Chiz expecting twins in Oct.

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From page A1

lot," said Escudero, who is running for senator under the opposition banner. "But if my wife's pretty looks were any gauge, I think they're going to be girls."

In an interview with SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE a few years ago, the congressman said he believed he would make a good father. "I like kids. I think I'd make a good dad, given the opportunity," he said in that interview.

## Singer at Sulo

Escudero, a University of the Philippines' law graduate who took up his master's degree in international and comparative law at Georgetown University in Washington DC, and Christine Flores, a music major from the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, were married in December 1999.

Escudero met Christine, a singer and stage actress, when she was performing at the Sulo Hotel's Diwata Lounge in 1994.

Christine, together with actress Susan Roces, accompanied the congressman when he filed his certificate of candidacy with the Commission on Elections in late January. She has not joined her husband's campaign sorties since then to prepare for the twins' arrival.

Escudero has served three terms as congressman of Sorsogon's first district from 1998 to the present.

## Former 'That's' member

In the past, Christine had been a ubiquitous presence in her husband's roadshows, even subbing for him in his own rally in Sorsogon while Escudero was busy speaking for movie actor presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. in the runup to the May 2004 elections.

"She sings very well; she used to sing before my speeches. She saved me a lot of talent fees," Escudero said, chuckling. He was clad in his trademark black shirt, denim pants and black boots.

"But I discovered something in my last campaign. We noticed that after she's done her number, people on the fringes would start to leave. So the next time around, we decided that I'd speak first, then she would sing. It worked," he recalled.

Christine was a former member of "That's Entertainment," an afternoon youth-oriented TV show hosted by German Moreno. She has appeared in musicals and stage plays of the New Music Voice Company and runs her own music school for children in Quezon City.

**CHRISTINE** stood by her husband together with their wedding godmother, Susan Roces, when Chiz Escudero filed his certificate of candidacy for the Senate at the Comelec last January.

INQUIRER PHOTO

# Agri putting up P2-B nat'l grains highway

From page A1

Why is this? Because these goods go through a series of middlemen and marketplace transfers before they reach the consumer markets of Metro Manila and large urban centers.

The high cost of bringing agriculture products to the final consumer harms the country as a whole by stifling the productivity of a crucial sector—agriculture.

But the victims ultimately are the consumers who have to pay higher food prices and the farmers who end up receiving only a tiny portion of the final price of their produce.

## Bridging the gap

This is why the agriculture department, through the National Food Authority, plans to put up this year a P2-billion "national grains highway" that will link farm production areas directly to major consumption centers.

According to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap, the grains highway would bridge the wide gap between farmgate costs and retail prices of basic food items.

"A grains highway will do away with inefficient, costly and slow transport systems to move agricultural products from production areas to selling centers, and resolve the problem of unstable food supply and prices in 'uncharted' areas and food-deficient communities," Yap said.

The "grains highway" will also directly link rice and corn production areas to those areas of the country that are isolated and prone to natural calamities.

According to Yap, this will involve the NFA's upgrading its warehouses, putting up grains silos and related post-harvest facilities and marketing support systems designed to reduce crop wastages and losses.

These facilities, which will form part of the grains highway, will be set up in the 37 rice-producing and 33 corn-producing provinces, Yap said.

The country's main rice-growing regions are Mindanao and Central Luzon and the Cagayan Valley. Mindanao is the main producer of corn.

## Post-harvest losses

"We will encourage farmers' cooperatives and other agricultural stakeholders to help bankroll and build their own silos, which is a key factor in reducing post-harvest losses and boosting farm productivity," he said.

Post-harvest losses of corn alone are estimated at 25 percent of total harvest, mainly because of the lack of adequate drying and storage facilities.

Rosalie M. Ellasus, president of Philippine Maize Federation Inc., said the grains highway was "really needed by farmers as it would dramatically improve quality of corn and significantly reduce post-harvest losses."

"Losses can be reduced to as low as two or even 1 percent from the current 15 to 25 percent," said Ellasus.

She said post-harvest losses eat up the bulk of farmers' incomes.

She said these losses are mainly attributed to the lack of post-harvest facilities. In the absence of sufficient drying equipment, the corn retains a high moisture content, which causes much damage, Ellasus said.

## Logistic artery

Yap described the grains highway as a logistics artery aimed at efficiently storing, processing and transporting food from production to consumption areas.

With this grains highway in place, Yap said the NFA would be able to handle other commodities besides rice and corn, like high-value crops and meat and poultry products that would generate more revenues and create new jobs.

The NFA, which grew out of the Marcos-era National Grains Authority, is the agency responsible for ensuring the stability of the country's supply and price of the grain staples, rice and corn.

PhilMaize is the first organized national federation representing the corn industry. Its members include producers, suppliers, operators and mid-processors.

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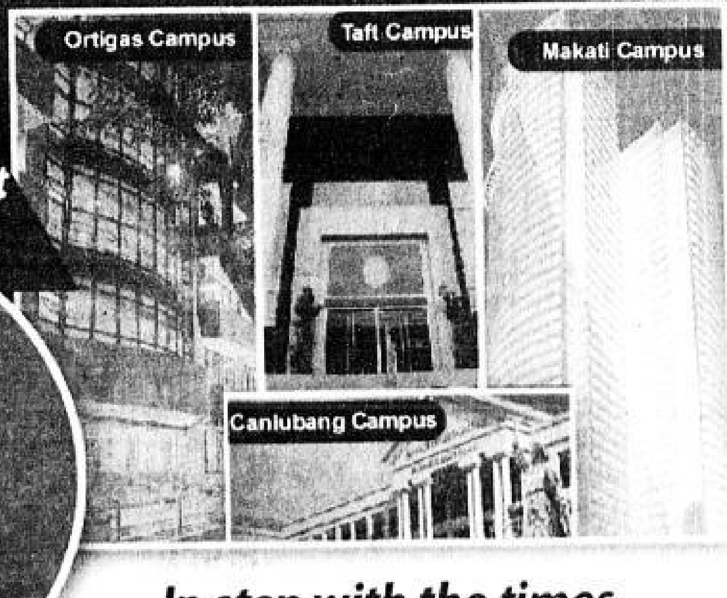

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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
IAEB No.2007-018-Goods

COFFEE TABLE BOOK FOR SSS 50TH ANNIVERSARY
(2nd Re-Publication)

*Conceptualization, Design, Production, Printing, Supply and Delivery of Two Thousand Five Hundred (2,500) copies of Coffee Table Book for SSS 50th Anniversary*

1. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) intends to apply the sum of P5,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the acquisition of the above-mentioned copies of Coffee Table Book, consisting of the following:

| Item Description | | | Amount | Source of Fund |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Item #1 | 1,000 copies<br>1,000 copies<br>500 copies | Hardbound Cover<br>Softbound Cover<br>Electronic CDROM | P5,000,000.00 | CY 2007 Interim Budget for Anniversary Expenses |

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The SSS now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the proposed acquisition of Coffee Table Book. Supply and delivery of the GOODS are required within **ten (10) months**, after contract signing/receipt of Job Order (JO). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **P2,500.00.** The method of payment will be on a cash basis payable at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg., Ground floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on **18 May 2007 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on **01 June 2007 not later then 2:30 p.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be held at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City on **01 June 2007 at 2:30 p.m.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address.
9. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids without offering any reason, waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

**Bid and Awards Committee**
**The Secretariat**
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel # 922-2901; 924-7380; 920-6401 local 5491
Email - bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number - (02) 924-7380

(Sgd.) THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI – May 6, 2007)

# Metro pay hike seen by July

**By Jerome Aning**

THE WAGE BOARD IN METRO Manila has begun reviewing the P75-wage hike petition filed by the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, raising hopes of a minimum wage hike by the middle of the year.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, in her Labor Day speech, ordered all regional wage boards to look into the possibility of raising the current P350 minimum wage.

National Wage and Productivity Commission (NWPC) Executive Director Esther Guirao said the wage board for the National Capital Region has scheduled consultations with the labor sector on May 21 and with the employers sector on May 31. A public hearing is scheduled for June 14.

Based on the rules for minimum wage setting, the board should decide the matter within 30 days after the last public hearing, or by July, Guirao said.

Other regional wage boards are expected to begin their deliberations to determine if and how much could be granted to workers based on prevailing socioeconomic conditions. The TUCP has filed petitions for a P75-wage hike in the Central Visayas and Davao regions.

Public hearings, however, are expected to be contentious because militant labor groups like Kilusang Mayo Uno said they would insist on a legislated P125-wage hike.

"We assure the public that the boards nationwide are assessing the wage condition in their respective areas and will come up with a decision that is acceptable and fair to both workers and employers," Guirao said.

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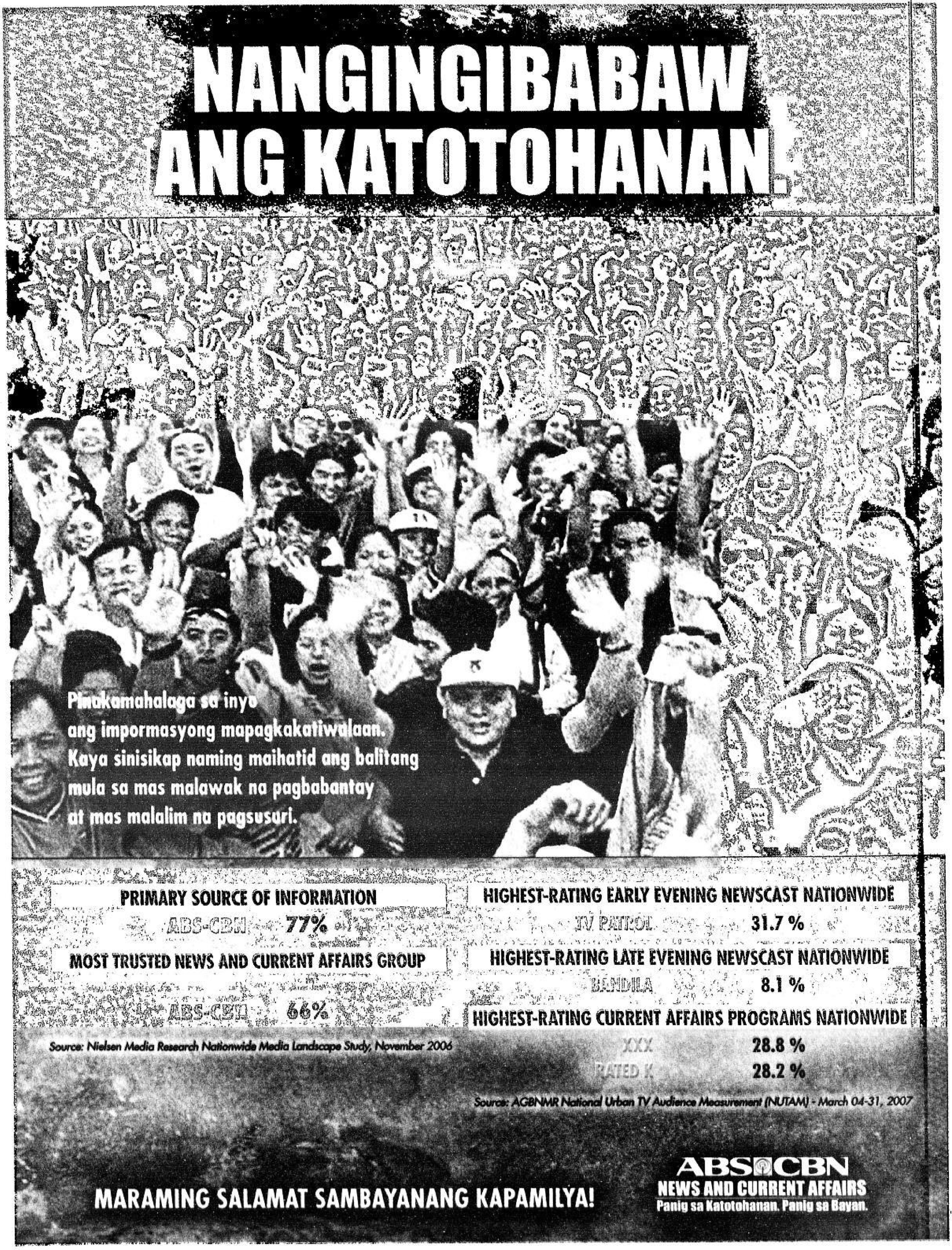

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# OPINION

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## Who's in charge?

**EDITORIAL**

IT MAY BE, AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDUARDO Ermita reminded the public last week, that Archbishop Oscar Cruz is a known critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo. That doesn't mean, however, that for that very reason the latest criticism from the high-profile prelate and anti-*jueteng* advocate should be discounted, or dismissed outright.

What did Cruz say exactly? "Frankly, the way the killings go on, from the extrajudicial killings and now the [election-related] killings, notwithstanding all the probes and the reports, the conclusion is that the Commander in Chief is no longer in command," he told the INQUIRER. He also said he thought the President had been reduced to uttering "oral protestations" and ordering "ceremonial investigations."

No such thing, Ermita said the following day. "What they're saying—that the orders of the President are not being followed—is not true. She continues to be respected as the President and Commander in Chief, and that's exactly how things are." He added: "she acts as President and Commander in Chief to ensure that the greater interest of the majority of our people is protected."

(It doesn't help this administration's struggle with public skepticism that Ermita, himself a former general, is the most visible, most voluble executive secretary in the Republic's history. Doesn't the President already have a spokesman and press secretary to speak, regularly, for her? What is Ermita doing week in and week out, speaking for the entire administration?)

Even if true, however, Ermita's statement fails to account for the evidence we all see with our own eyes. The President has ordered the national police and even the armed services to run after the assassins, but the death toll from extrajudicial killings of leftist activists and troublesome journalists continues to rise. The President has ordered the national police and even the armed services to clamp down on private armies and on possible sources of poll violence, but the casualty lists from acts of election-related violence continue to lengthen. To appropriate the words of former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez, in the aftermath of an assassination attempt on his life during the Marcos years: What is happening to our country, General?

The President gives an order—and nothing happens. Or rather, the same thing happens again and again: Last Thursday, for instance, was the bloodiest day of the election season.

It may be, as some of the President's critics say, that the Commander in Chief's orders are only for public consumption. Her orders, in their view, are meant merely to score political *pogi* points. These meet, and were designed to meet, very short-term objectives: soothe European Union anxieties, deflect United Nations criticism, allay US Embassy concerns. The long-term strategy remains the same, however: Her political survival depends on keeping the opposition off-balance, and that part of the public that may yet again take to the streets intimidated.

If this is in fact the case, then the President is playing a very dangerous game indeed—and former Senate President Jovito Salonga's warnings about the return of Marcos-style politics should be heeded as a prophecy that is already in the process of coming true.

It may also be, as some of the President's defenders say, that only a small group of rogue soldiers is actually responsible for the killings. Or—one hypothesis goes—it may be that this rogue group started out as special operations, but now has turned into a murderous genie that refuses to reenter the bottle. If that were the case, then it isn't only presidential and institutional complicity that is the problem, but incompetence too.

And we are back to the same chilling question: Who, really, is in charge?

Archbishop Cruz, obviously with the alleged involvement of policemen and soldiers in the extrajudicial killings in mind, castigated the President for an essential passivity. "More than the national leadership telling the AFP and the Philippine National Police what to do, she simply accepts what they do," he said. Perhaps the genie is out of that cursed bottle.

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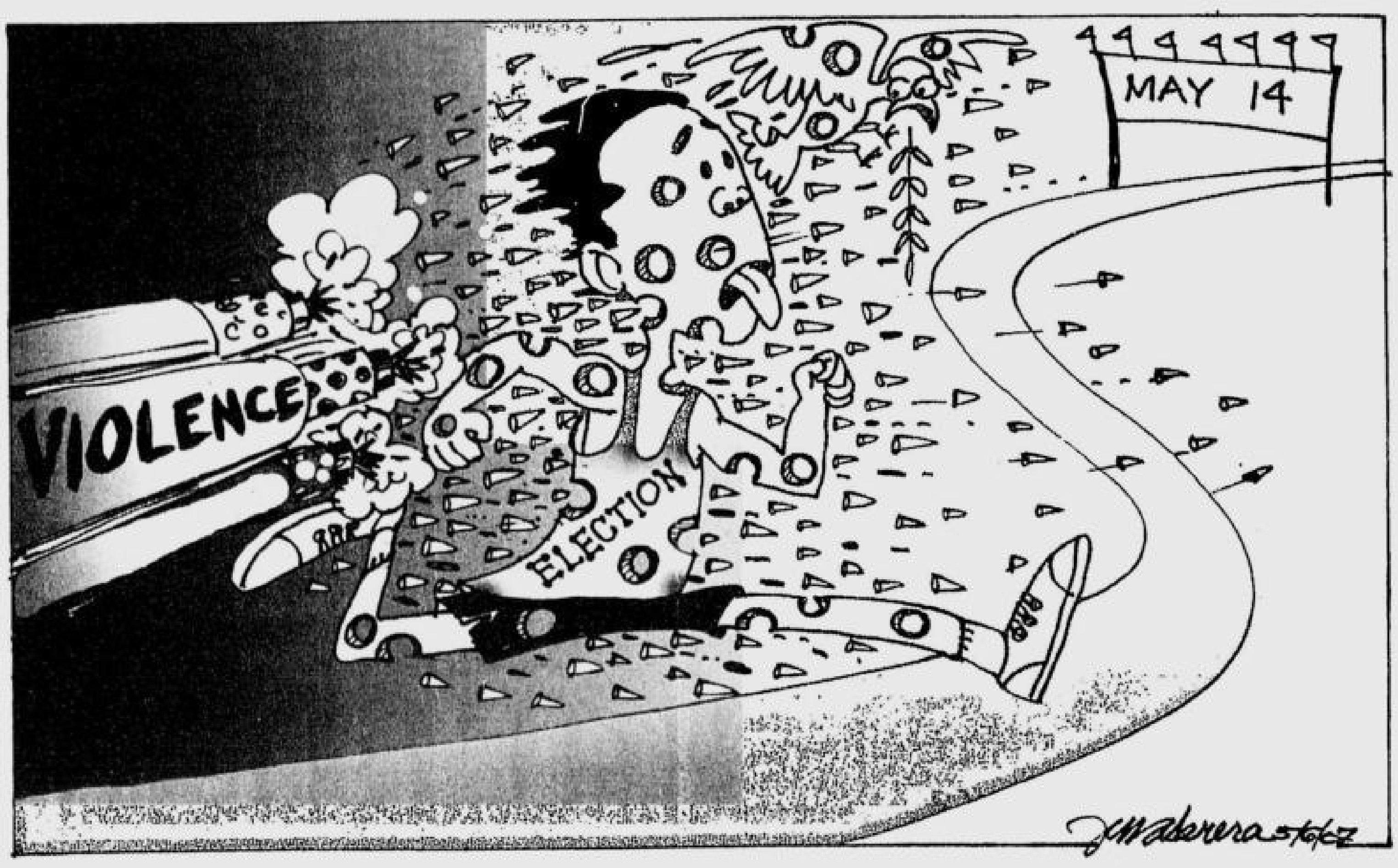


## The real issue in the coming elections

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

MANY RIGHT-THINKING FILIPINOS BELIEVE that the coming elections will be more than the ordinary and regular selection of the officials in Congress and the local governments for the next three years. Properly evaluated, it will be an indirect but decisive referendum on the controversial administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Although she herself is not a candidate, the results of the voting next week will be a judgment on whether her political leadership should be continued and extolled as urged by her loyal followers or deservedly terminated as demanded by her irate critics.

The coming polls will be like the recent midterm elections in the United States where the voters ousted the Republicans from control of both houses of the US Congress not solely because of the questionable conduct of some of their colleagues. The principal reason was the widespread dissatisfaction of the electorate with the performance and policies of President George W. Bush.

Dubya, as he is dismissively called by his opponents, is despised by as many as 70 percent of the American people. He is particularly hated for the worsening tragedy of the Iraq war that he started but cannot win or at least end with tattered honor. His ineptness in solving the many domestic problems besetting his country has also added to his still growing repudiation.

It is this uncomfortable position of her political idol that President Arroyo is anxious to avoid. This is the reason she is particularly determined to court the electorate for her own sake and not merely as a party leader. She knows that the coming elections will decide her political fortunes and, by extension, the future of her relatives now clinging to her coattails.

Specially affected is her husband who, as a private citizen, has nevertheless involved himself actively in public affairs like a *negotiorum gestor*. In the process, he is enjoying, deliberately or not, vicarious political advantage derived from the status of his wife as the President of the Philippines.

I recall in this connection the low-profile millionaire Denis Thatcher, husband of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Whenever he attended state functions, which was seldom, he took care to walk several steps behind his wife as befitted the leader of the House of Commons and head of the British government. Sir Denis was not as visible and combative, let alone litigious, as the husband of Ms Arroyo.

Since we are reminiscing of pleasant things, let us also remember that when Manuel Roxas toured the whole country during his campaign against President Osmeña in 1946, the placid Don Sergio chose to remain in Malacañang. The victor of many successful political battles during his prime, he decided instead to quietly attend to his official responsibilities instead of slugging it out in the hustings with his rival.

The old man lost the election but retained the respect and veneration of the whole nation. He had demonstrated the distinction between the statesman concerned primarily with his public duties and the practical politician wooing the people's votes above all else. The politician won and is now the exemplar of our peripatetic President.

But unlike Roxas who was immensely popular then, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is her worst liability. And her Team Unity is suffering because of her unwelcome intrusion in its hardly overpowering campaign. Composed of mediocre minions, rejected oppositionists turned administration barkers, and former critics whose ultimate loyalty has not conclusively shifted to her, the anemic slate is doomed unless the election results are again falsified.

The problem of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's candidates is that her endorsement is like an infectious kiss. Many of them would prefer that she lie low instead of projecting herself and reminding the voters of the many serious accusations against her. Foremost among these is Hello, Garci which remains unanswered although it keeps ringing like an insistent telephone.

Knowing that they cannot win on the merits, the administration spinmasters are resorting as usual to dirty tricks that have served them well before. In addition to Hello, Garci tactics, they are distributing material goodies to negotiable voters, suppressing lawful assemblies of unsympathetic critics, terrorizing opponents and hostile journalists, bribing constituencies with official "rewards," and exhausting many other illicit operations.

Their principal goal is not to insure the victory of Team Unity and their candidates for the lower House and the local offices. That is only a collateral objective. The overriding purpose is to affirm, by hook or by crook, and more likely by crook, the dubious leadership of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

It is under her watch that the Philippines has been reduced to the most corrupt country in Asia, continues to be a nation of self-exiled domestics, remains lawless even in the centers of population, and is now internationally scorned for its rampant violation of human rights. This is the shabby record the people should bear in mind when they vote on May 14.

## Missed call

**MOMENTS**

*Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD*

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A SMALL BOY who sat with his mother in church.

During the homily, the priest kept asking the question "What is a Christian?" each time pounding his fist on the pulpit.

Feeling nervous with the repeated questioning, the little boy whispered to his mother, "Mama, do you know what a Christian is?"

"Yes, dear, just sit and listen," said the mother.

When the priest thundered again "What is a Christian?" this time pounding extra hard on the pulpit, the nervous boy jumped and cried: "Tell him Mama! Tell him!"

* * *

**In today's Gospel (Jn. 13, 31-35), Jesus tells us clearly what a Christian is: "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."**

**We know what a Christian is. The problem is that we just sit still and do nothing about it. Sad to say, we are not sending the message, we are not printing the picture, and we are not singing our song to "tell the world of His love."**

* * *

All of us Christians should be busy campaigning for Christ. What have you done, what are you doing to make Christ known? "Go to the whole world and preach the Gospel to all creation." (Mk. 16,15) What have you contributed to His campaign fund in terms of time, talent and treasures? Have you talked about Him to other people? Have you proclaimed His name and shown His face by your very life example? Do people have a clearer picture of Christ because they met you?

* * *

**We have to acknowledge the zeal, hard work and determination of politicians running for public office this May, including their supporters. They leave no stone unturned, and they seize every and any means just to be known and get elected. For what? For public service, *daw*. If only we Christians had the same zeal and determination in our mission for God.**

* * *

The Philippines is the only Christian country in this part of the world, but it does not show. Sure, there is much religiosity and tradition, but in terms of values and actuations, there is much room for improvement. Instead of loving one another, we often kill one another, cheat one another, manipulate one another, use one another.

* * *

**Isn't it about time you and I really made God's vision our vision, and His agenda our agenda in life? Too bad some people just leave God out of the picture until they encounter some trials or meet some tragedy in life. Our greatest regret and sadness will be when we face our Creator at the end of our lives, and we realize that we have never really known Him or never truly loved Him and never concretely served Him.**

* * *

Don't miss the most important call in your life—the call to love. The reason we fail to receive and thus fail to respond to this most important call is that our line is busy with other calls, or we are not within the coverage area, or we deliberately refuse or bar this call in our lives.

* * *

**Another call we must not miss is the call to conversion. At any point of our lives, we must be open to a change of heart and conversion. A person, for example, who received healing from God should be grateful and humble and should effect a qualitative change in his/her life and lifestyle. His/her healing should lead to a deeper and more sincere loving, and to a more intense pursuit of his/her mission in life. If a recipient of healing does not change for the better, then, what was the healing for?**

* * *

Before we placed the urn bearing the remains of the late XVD William Soriano last April 29, someone had a spontaneous idea of putting the camera inside the vault to have our picture taken, intending to put the caption "William's perspective: the view from the other side." Please don't forget our call to go to heaven at the end of our lives. Time is passing. Eternity is waiting. We are all pilgrims in this "valley of tears." After this our "exile," we hope to see Him face to face in that place where there are no more tears, no more problems, no more elections, no more cheating; where everyone receives true and real justice.

* * *

**Go the "extra mile" in all your loving. Don't forget to love with joy and humility. There are people who love, but there is no joy in their loving. There are people who love but become arrogant or self-righteous in the process. Love much and love true, with joy and humility in your heart.**

* * *

It's just about a week before we go to the polls. Let us all pray and work this week for peaceful, clean and honest elections. Let us ask the Blessed Mother in this month of May to give us a harvest of good leaders in our land. Amid all the disappointments and frustrations, let us continue to hope and believe that something good is up ahead of us.

* * *

**A moment with the Lord:**

*Lord, help us not to miss the call to love while I am still alive. Amen.*

# Another slap on the Comelec

## WITH DUE RESPECT

*Artemio V. Panganiban*

THOUGH ALREADY IMPLEMENTED IN 1998, 2001 and 2004, the party-list election is still hounded by unnecessary controversies. These problems could have been easily avoided if the Commission on Elections followed meticulously—as, indeed, it is duty-bound to—the two Supreme Court decisions in Veterans Federation Party vs Comelec (Oct. 6, 2000) and Ang Bagong Bayani vs Comelec (June 26, 2001), as well as the implementing resolution in the latter case dated June 25, 2003. I wrote these two decisions and resolution.

**Overturning the Comelec.** Veterans Federation was unanimously reiterated recently in two cases: Partido ng Manggagawa vs Comelec (March 15, 2006, written by Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno); and CIBAC vs Comelec (April 13, 2007, penned by Justice Presbitero J. Velasco Jr.). Three days ago, on May 3, the Supreme Court—speaking unanimously through Justice Cancio C. Garcia—dealt out the Comelec a new slap when, consistent with the Ang Bagong Bayani ruling, it ordered the poll body to disclose immediately the names of the party-list nominees.

Significantly, in all these cases, the Court overturned the poll body. And yet, despite these embarrassing reversals, the Comelec still insisted on its own gravely abusive interpretations of the Constitution (Sec. 5 of Article VI) and the Party-List Law (Republic Act 7941).

Consider this. During the 1998 elections, the Comelec proclaimed the victory of 52 party-list representatives, in undisguised violation of Sec. 11 (b) of RA 7941, which states that only those parties obtaining a minimum of 2 percent of the total valid votes cast for the party-list system were "qualified" to have a seat in the House of Representatives. Although only 13 of the 52 garnered the minimum 2 percent, all 52 were declared winners.

**Disregarding the law.** "In disregarding, rejecting and circumventing the statutory provisions, the Comelec," said the Court in the Veterans case, "effectively arrogated unto itself what the Constitution expressly and wholly vested in the legislature." The task of the Comelec is to administer and enforce election-related laws. "It has no power to contravene or amend them." It cannot pretend to know better than Congress or the Supreme Court.

In the same case, the high tribunal carefully crafted a mathematical formula to determine the winners in the party-list elections. This step-by-step formula (which is detailed in the decision) was made by the Court after long and purposeful deliberations, taking into account the "four inviolable parameters" of the unique Filipino party-list system.

Despite this major setback, the poll agency repeatedly ignored the ruling and insisted on using its rejected methodologies. Thus, the Court again reversed the Comelec in the recent Partido ng Manggagawa and CIBAC cases, with the admonition "to strictly apply the Veterans formula in determining the entitlement of qualified party-list groups to additional seats."

**Disclosing the nominees' identities.** Comes now the latest Comelec caper. In its Ang Bagong Bayani decision, the Supreme Court clearly required that the party-list nominees "must be Filipino citizens belonging to marginalized and unrepresented sectors, organizations and parties." Added the Court, "The intent of the Constitution is clear: to give genuine power to the people, not only by giving more law to those who have less in life, but more so by enabling them to become veritable lawmakers themselves."

Sec. 9 of RA 7941 lists the qualifications of nominees, as follows: (1) natural-born citizen; (2) registered voter; (3) resident of the Philippines for not less than one year immediately preceding the election day; (4) able to read and write; (5) twenty-five years of age; and (6) "a bona fide member of the party or organization which he seeks to represent for at least ninety (90) days preceding the day of the election."

The Garcia *ponencia* held that the Comelec violated the people's right to information and the constitutional mandate on transparency. How indeed can interested parties know whether the nominees truly "qualified" under these statutory and jurisprudential norms if the Comelec prohibits the disclosure of their names? By its gravely abusive resolution, the Comelec risked, and got, another spanking from the highest tribunal.

To be able to act on the urgent petition filed by former Sen. Jovito R. Salonga (on behalf of Akbayan, Kilosbayan, et al.) and to strike down this latest Comelec indiscretion, the Supreme Court had to convene during its recess. *Nakakahiya!* To be fair, may I just say that the rejected Comelec resolution was passed by a slim vote of three (Commissioners Rex Borra, Florentino Tuason and Nicodemo Ferrer) to two (Commissioners Romeo Brawner and Rene Sarmiento). Chair Benjamin Abalos did not cast his vote.

By making it difficult for the marginalized and underrepresented to get their due, the Comelec—to quote Ang Bagong Bayani—"would have us believe that the party-list provisions of the Constitution and RA 7941 are nothing more than a play of dubious words, a mockery of noble intentions and an empty offering on the altar of people empowerment."

By continuously so acting, the Comelec is risking more slaps from the vigilant Supreme Court. My unsolicited advice to the poll body is to follow the rule of law at all times and to obey all decisions and orders of the highest court even if it may disagree with the justices.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com*

# Cebu surprises

## AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

ON OUR WAY TO DINNER, WE FOUND OUR way blocked by a tall, black metal gate with a stainless steel sign that asked the driver to "honk your horn if you want to enter."

Once parked, we found ourselves in a garden lit by torches, making our way down a path lined with pebbles, tropical plants and tall colorful Muslim drums. Reaching the bottom of the path, we found a pavilion of dark wood, with dark wood tables, cushioned chairs and flickering candles. There was also an open kitchen and, farther away, an open-air patio with low-slung couches and low tables, *talisay* trees spotlighted in the background, a small pool and a slice of beach. The sight was so unexpected, we caught our breaths and couldn't help gaping in delight. We had found "Abaca."

Located just a few minutes' drive away from Shangri-la Mactan, Abaca is a newly opened restaurant that is bringing fine dining in Cebu to new heights. Quite apart from the spectacular architecture and setting, Abaca is noted for its cuisine, which is truly world-class since chef-owner Jason Hyatt has clocked in extensive experience as a chef in top restaurants in the United States and in Hong Kong.

The night we were there, the place was full, and we espied Tourism Secretary Ace Durano taking a break from campaign duties as Team Unity spokesperson, and celebrating his birthday with a group of friends all born in April.

How Hyatt and his wife Ana, who combines her Korean-Japanese and Australian heritage in a lovely, graceful package, came to found Abaca is in itself a compelling story.

* * *

**JOINING us as we were polishing off Jason's rack of lamb, salad, pizza and pesto pasta, Ana said the site of Abaca is a lot owned by Jason's aunt, a native of Cebu who married Jason's uncle. After spending a few summers in the family's beachfront house, Jason and Ana became convinced that this would make for the perfect site for a restaurant and hotel, and sunk their and their investors' money in the project. For the moment, Abaca is open only for dinner, as construction work is ongoing "and there are a lot of half-naked men moving about." The complex will include, aside from the restaurant, an upscale nine-room boutique hotel that Ana, as marketing director, hopes to market to higher-paying, longer-staying foreign clients.**

**Why the name Abaca? Ana says a foreigner friend suggested it, being "Filipino and yet also familiar to foreigners."**

**Ana is herself a perfect symbol of Abaca's allure of exoticism, edginess and modernism. She is also a convincing champion of Cebu, sharing how her son's sinus allergies, which had gotten rather bad while they lived in Hong Kong, suddenly vanished when they began living in Cebu. "Even my complexion which was so red and spotted in Hong Kong, cleared up after just a few weeks here!"**

**Finding a "secret" restaurant down the road, one that rivals the best that Manila or even Hong Kong or New York can offer, was just one of many Cebu secrets uncovered in the course of a weekend visit.**

* * *

"AT FIRST I was worried that the office would question why we included two massages in the package," confided Nadia Abcede, a DOT media relations officer and "mother hen" of the group that included Bulletin's Jullie Yap Daza, photographer Mandy Navasero, and Sense and Style magazine's A.A. Patawaran. "But no one raised any questions, so I was surprised," she added.

I told her that, perhaps, it was because one of Secretary Durano's thrusts in his term was to promote the Philippines as a "spa and wellness" destination.

At the Shangri-la Mactan's Chi Spa, Jullie and I opted for the "*hilot*" package, which uses native massage techniques using virgin coconut oil as lubricant. I had availed of the "chi balance" massage in a previous visit to the Shang Mactan, and both times I was there, I was pampered every step of the way, as therapists guided me—for I am nearly blind without my glasses—from the Water Pavilion, where the Jacuzzi and shower stalls are, to the private massage pavilion. "You have a different aura!" Nadia exclaimed as we all stepped out of the elevator, ready for dinner at Abaca and feeling loose-limbed and sleek.

* * *

**THE NEXT day, after a hectic day of shopping, we checked in at the newly renovated Maribago Bluewater Resort. It now boasts of the spanking new "Amuma Spa." "Amuma," so our guide Renz told us, means "to nurture or to pamper," so we all looked forward to another relaxing massage that evening as we pored over Amuma Spa's menu of services.**

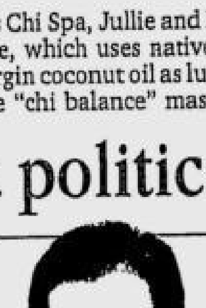
**But first, there was dinner at the Casino Español and an after-dinner chat over wine and cheese with Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia at the Tinder Box.**

**It was nearly midnight by the time we arrived at Maribago Bluewater, but the staff at Amuma was waiting for us. Jullie and Mandy opted to have their massages in their rooms, but I had chosen to undergo the "*paligo*" package, so I stayed on at the Spa itself. Designed by furniture designer Benjie Reyes, Amuma combines ethnic pieces in a minimalist setting, giving off an overall impression of openness and calm, soothing interiors.**

**The "*paligo*" started with a foot massage, after which my body was slathered all over with a mix of VCO and *calamansi*, followed by cold mango puree. I was then enclosed in a wrap of banana leaves, and while basting in this fruity mix ("I feel like a *biko*!" I exclaimed), VCO was poured and allowed to run down my hair.**

**After being toweled down with a damp face cloth, I was asked to soak in a warm bath with milk, *calamansi* and petals. Soothed and soft like a baby, I made my way from the Spa to our charming cottages, wrapped only in a huge towel and cheesecloth wrap. I slept soundly, thanking fate for the many surprises and pleasures Cebu has to offer.**

# Pampanga politics



## PUBLIC LIVES

*Randy David*

PAMPANGA IS GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S bailiwick, the only province in all of Luzon where she actually won in the 2004 presidential election. GMA did not grow up here, nor does she have a good command of the language, but the province regards her as its most illustrious daughter. Her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, a poet, *zarzuela* actor, and orator, remains a revered figure among Kapampangans.

This is also the home of the President's most trusted political lieutenants—politicians like Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and his son, the incumbent Gov. Mark Lapid, and provincial board member Lilia "Baby" Pineda and her controversial husband, Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, Luzon's reputed "*jueteng*" czar. Ms Arroyo's eldest son, Mikey, started his political career as vice governor to Lito Lapid. After one term, he won handily as congressman of the second district, and now he is seeking reelection virtually unopposed. Bong Pineda is known to be his biggest backer.

Until the late 1960s, Pampanga politics was practically the private preserve of the landed and the educated. The highest position accessible to humble folk like Ms Pineda and Senator Lapid would have been the headship of a small barangay. The dominant political parties of the time—the Liberal Party and the Nacionalista Party—would have scoffed at the political ambition of a movie actor or of an alleged *jueteng* operator.

The emergence of a cash-based economy and the rapid spread of the mass media in the intervening years permanently altered the terrain of provincial politics. Recruitment to elective public office has become a free-for-all, with the decisive advantage going to those who have unlimited cash or mass media popularity.

Lito Lapid first tested the political waters by running and winning as vice governor. Three years later, he became governor, carving out a mythic role for himself as a fearless rescuer of stranded residents at the height of the mudflows that devastated the province. In 2001, following the May Day riots that threatened the Arroyo presidency, Lapid became Ms Arroyo's answer to the residual mass appeal of deposed President Joseph "Erap" Estrada. Recognizing his value as a popular symbol, Ms Arroyo recruited him into her senatorial slate for the crucial 2004 election. Today, Lito Lapid sits securely as a senator until 2010, even as he has joined the mayoral race in Makati City in a bid to dislodge the popular opposition leader Jojo Binay.

Baby Pineda, a former *buko* vendor, started out as a councilor and moved on to become a three-term mayor of Lubao, Ms Arroyo's hometown. After serving her final term, she won a seat in the provincial board, while her son, Dennis Pineda, succeeded her as mayor of Lubao. Today, Baby is running for governor; her son Dennis is seeking re-election as Lubao mayor, while Dennis' wife, Yolly Pineda, is running for mayor in the neighboring town of Sta. Rita. One cannot fail to be moved by the democratic symbolism of these truly phenomenal careers.

Not everyone, however, agrees that the rise to political power of the Lapids and the Pinedas has been good for Pampanga. An assertive middle class has grown tired of the revolving door of *jueteng*-sponsored corrupt public officials who have ruled the province. The reign of the Lapids is particularly noted for its lack of any coherent plan for the province and for its total disregard of the rudiments of good governance. It is chiefly associated with the indiscriminate quarrying of lahar and the failure to collect the right taxes on the millions of tons of gravel and sand taken out of the province every month.

Today, the revolt against the leadership of the Lapids is led by no less than the Pineda couple, which provokes thoughtful Kapampangans to ask if anyone seriously believes that the future of Pampanga could possibly lie with Baby and Bong Pineda. This skepticism centers on the public image of the elusive Bong Pineda—the street-smart operator who has figured in nearly every congressional investigation of illegal gambling in the country but has never been charged, who enjoys a reputation as a kingmaker of sorts and as a personal friend of the President no less.

Bong Pineda is known to have built and demolished countless political careers, but the feat that he supposedly takes special pride in was ensuring the victory of his *kumadre* Gloria (Macapagal-Arroyo) in the 2004 presidential election. A fascinating account, contained in the sworn testimony of Michaelangelo "Louie" Zuce, nephew of the notorious Comelec official Virgilio Garcillano, shows how this was accomplished. Zuce testified that Pineda's wife, Lilia, was the lady he saw distributing envelopes containing money at two dinners hosted by President Arroyo at her La Vista home four months before the May 2004 elections. Zuce says that apart from himself, the other recipients of this largesse were Comelec officials from various regions of the country. Both Ms Arroyo and Ms Pineda have denied giving money to anyone, but the persistence of this issue has only enhanced Bong Pineda's reputation as a power player.

Pampanga politics looked hopeless at the beginning of the year when the fight for the governorship loomed as an exclusive match between two well-funded GMA allies—Mark Lapid and Baby Pineda. But the entry of a third figure in the person of the Catholic priest Fr. Eddie Panlilio has changed the whole picture. The charismatic cleric is running on the assumption that the only antidote to cash is conscience. I would have argued that reason is. But given the political realities of Pampanga today, perhaps he is right.

* * *

*Comments to public.lives@gmail.com*

# Into the dark

## REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

*Patricia Evangelista*

"PAN'S LABYRINTH" IS A FAIRY TALE. IT IS CRUEL, intense—and wrenching. There are no dancing mice or singing candlesticks, and the closest to a fairy godmother is a faun, half-man, half goat, blue-grey skin whorled with spirals, his enormous curving horns erupting out of his head. It is a film whose delicate fingers stroke smiling lips, and then reaches in with jagged, dirt-encrusted nails to claw at throat and heart and quaking gut.

Every fairy tale, after all, is a study in contrasts, the bright sparkle of fantasy mingling with miserable reality. Hansel and Gretel were poor children who were led by their parents into the woods to die. Snow White found the seven dwarves after being pursued by the Queen's huntsman. Cinderella was tortured and abused by a sinister stepmother. Aladdin was a thieving street urchin. And in the original, unsanitized, un-Disneyfied version of "The Little Mermaid," the prince does not fall in love with her, and Ariel dies, lost in sea mist. As Spanish director Guillermo del Torro says, fairy tales pit harsh circumstances against a fantasy world. "Pan's Labyrinth" is no different. It is a story of a reality so brutal that only fantasy can provide it an escape.

It begins with a story.

Once upon a time, there was a princess who lived in a castle. One day, she escaped, her cape streaming behind her as she flew down long flights of stone steps, past snaking hallways and towering walls. Out she ran, into the world she had never seen. Then the sunlight blinded her, and she forgot who she was, forgot she was a princess who lived in a castle.

Legend said the princess would return one day. Her father the king waited for her, and swore he would keep on waiting, until the world stopped turning, until the end of time.

The story then brings us to the middle of Franco's Spain, during the Spanish Civil War, where ragtag freedom fighters in the mountains stand against a fascist army. The heroine is Ofelia, a young Spanish girl (Ivana Baquero) whose beautiful mother Carmen (Ariadne Gil) has just married an army captain. Ofelia and the pregnant Carmen are taken up to a small mill in the Spanish mountains, where her disturbingly evil stepfather, Captain Vidal (Sergi Lopez) commands a military outpost. Ofelia, a dark-eyed, bookish girl, is left mostly on her own. One night, while lying in bed beside her sleeping mother, a fairy appears to lead her into the center of an old, old labyrinth outside her new home.

Here she meets a faun—who appears to be the horror-movie equivalent of Narnia's furry friends. He greets Ofelia with joy, calls her the lost Princess Moanna, born long, long ago, whose father the king had sent guardians all over the world to await. Yet to become a princess, to return to her kingdom, to prove that she is not merely human, the faun tells her she must follow three tasks. But her fantasy world is not a place of bright beauty and magic, the images come from the dark side of dreams. There is an enormous toad that sits in an underground pool of mud, sucking the life from a tree's roots, There is the Pale Man, faceless and eyeless, pallid skin hanging on an elongated body, murderer of innocents, whose gaping black mouth bites off fairies' heads, and whose eyeballs rest in his palms. There is the faun himself, sometimes fatherly, sometimes cold, sometimes nearly slithering with cunning.

The film shifts back and forth from Ofelia's fantastic world to the equally frightening scenes of the war. There are men being tortured, legs being amputated, and in one of the more intense scenes, the Captain's soldiers drag a pair of farmers accused of rebellion into the camp. The men, a young man and his father, beg for their lives, pleading that they were only in the woods to hunt for rabbits. The Captain hauls pages of an old almanac out of the captives' rucksack, and says they are subversive literature. He fishes out a bottle of wine. While soldiers hold the old man back, the captain slams the bottle into the mouth of the bound son, pounding it in while glass breaks and the man gurgles red wine and blood. At his death, the father shouts, nearly falls to his knees, all disbelief and shock and accusation. The Captain raises an arm and shoots the old man. He picks up the dead men's rucksack, and pulls out a dead rabbit. He looks at his men, and, using the same tone a man who has just discovered an ink stain on his white shirt would use, tells his soldiers to investigate better next time. Then he walks away to have the rabbit cooked.

Reality is interspersed with Del Toro's astounding fantasy sequences. The movie is a triumph of storytelling. In the end, both of his worlds are brought together in a startling celebration of innocence and the human spirit.

"Pan's Labyrinth" is a commentary on many things. It speaks of innocence, of the extremism of ideology, of humanity and courage, and of that one last moment of choice. Ofelia's fantasy world reflects the realities she is forced to face, allegories in a form a child understands.

There are those who say the movie is too brutal, too bloody, too much to be plausible. Yet the movie could easily be a commentary on today's reality—there is the fat toad sucking away at the country's lifeblood, and the blind men in uniform who shoot now and ask questions later. The victims increase by the day: there is the 9-year-old child who is shot in a crossfire, the tortured man who hangs himself by his underwear garter in a prison cell, the labor activist stolen away from Ever Gotesco, the two college girls missing for over a year, the old man whose hands are bloodied by his sons body.

The Spanish Civil War has long been over, but Ofelia's world could be anybody's today, anyone's in a country slapped again and again with outrage after outrage that there seems to be no other resort but dreams.

* * *

"Pan's Labyrinth," is still showing, has won numerous awards and nominations all over the world. It won Best Cinematography, Best Art Direction and Best Makeup in the 2006 Oscars, and was nominated for Best Original Screenplay, Best Foreign Film and Best Musical Score. It won Best Foreign Language Film in the British Academy Awards and was treated to a 21-minute standing ovation at the Cannes. It is, in this writer's opinion, one of the best films ever made.

* * *

*For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com*

2007 is for Remembering Ramon Magsaysay
100

"Political parties may win and lose elections but there is one party that I want to win during every elections: that party is the Filipino people."

***—President Ramon Magsaysay at a press conference on clean elections, Nov. 3, 1955***

"Too little time for nation building but…too much for political campaigns."

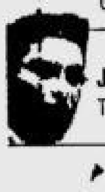
***—President Ramon Magsaysay talks about having a respite from politics during Medicine Week, Sept. 15, 1956***

Please send feedback to
jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

# TALK of the TOWN

# Dynasty and drugs

| Senatorial candidates | Antidynasty law | Importation of low-priced medicine |
|---|---|---|
| <br>**Edgardo Angara**<br>Team Unity | Political dynasty has both good and bad sides. One advantage is constituents will be assured of continuity in projects and policies. The downside, of course, comes when people start abusing their power. I believe that it is only an issue if they are not performing well and are doing a disservice to their constituents. The question is not "who are in office?" but "are they able to deliver?" | Caring for one's health is a personal responsibility for most people but for me, it is my public duty. I have helped institutionalize a National Health Insurance Program thru PhilHealth, pushed for the creation of the National Institutes of Health to promote health R & D, and rallied behind the Generics Act. I'll push for the increase in the elderly's discount privileges for medicine to 34 percent by proposing amendments to the Senior Citizens' Act. I'll support measures that will make available health support to an even bigger public even if it means importing quality low-priced medicines. |
| <br>**Benigno Simeon "Noynoy" Aquino III**<br>Genuine Opposition | Will support a law to enforce the constitutional prohibition on political dynasty. | I'm in favor of legislative initiatives seeking to amend the Intellectual Property Code to allow parallel importation of medicines as the first step toward broader access to quality health care. |
| <br>**Joker Arroyo**<br>Team Unity | I don't particularly condemn political dynasty because that's practiced all over the world. Remember, President John Kennedy, while he was in office, his brother Robert ran and another brother, Edward, ran and all the Kennedys ran. Even a third set of Kennedys—the wife also ran. No law has been passed because I don't think any congressman or any senator would endorse that. But it is practiced all over the world and dynasty is just like the pork barrel. Every parliament, even the Russian Duma, during the communist time also had pork barrel. That was why the politburo was able to control the duma. | No answer. |
| <br>**Martin Bautista**<br>Kapatiran | *Trapos* will continue to spend enormous amounts of money in order to continue a business arrangement that greatly profits numerous political dynasties. | Importation of medicine will be preferred to producing our own appropriate medications because there is more corruption whenever we import goods. |
| <br>**Alan Peter "Compañero" Cayetano**<br>Genuine Opposition | Family members in politics, per se, does not equate to dynasty. It is when there is no equal access to serving in government because the dynasty uses public resources and/or force to retain office, and serves its interest, not public interest. What is important is that people have the freedom to choose. There are many examples around the world of family members serving together in government and doing much good. | The Arroyo administration has neglected the health needs of the people. The cost of medicine is now beyond the reach of most Filipinos. I support the bills in Congress that call for importation of cheap drugs and for the institution of price control on certain drugs. Government purchases of drugs are also mired in corruption. This can be addressed by allowing patients to purchase medicine directly from private drugstores by issuing vouchers instead of the usual bidding that is practiced today. |
| <br>**Anna Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng**<br>Genuine Opposition | Our Constitution has a provision against political dynasties but there is no law banning it yet. We have to define what a dynasty is and its parameters, as well as the permutations. Is it just a dynasty in elective political office that we are against, or do we include dynasties in government where the spouse, children or siblings and other relatives are given positions by officials currently in power? We have to consider this and similar concerns before we can craft an antidynasty law. | While I am not against the importation of low-priced medicines, we must ensure that these are of the same high standard of safety and potency as medicines from established drug firms. One way to lower medicine prices is to require manufacturers to put in big enough text, the manufacturers' suggested retail price on the package so that consumers will know how much a drug outlet is making, over the manufacturers' cost of production. |
| <br>**Mike "Tol" Defensor**<br>Team Unity | I believe in giving the people the ultimate will to choose their leaders. In selecting their leaders, the basis should always be competence and the kind of service that can be offered to the public. The will of the electorate must be respected, this is one of the basic tenets of a democratic society. | One of the priority programs of the government is to bring quality but affordable medicine to the public. Notwithstanding, the implementation of the generics law, we have not been successful in reducing the price of medicines. We are implementing the Botika ng Bayan and the Botika ng Barangay in coordination with the Department of Health and the PITC. I agree to the importation of medicine if this will benefit the public. |
| <br>**Francis "Chiz" Escudero**<br>Genuine Opposition | Given a potential conflict of interest since I ran in the district that used to be held by my father until 1996, I will inhibit myself from any such discussions on the matter within the confines of the Senate. It is my firm belief, however, that it is up to the voter if he or she will still vote for a candidate even if he or she has relatives in government or will no longer vote for such a candidate because of such relations. | I am in favor of such a move if indeed it will redound to the benefit of our people. Safety nets would have to be provided, however, in connection with quality control and intellectual property rights. |
| <br>**Richard "Goma" Gomez**<br>Independent | The problem is, the antidynasty provision in the Constitution is not yet defined by law. It's really a lame excuse that since there's no law yet, some politicians are building dynasties. *Ang kapal ng mga mukha nila* (They're so brazen.). | All Filipinos should be given access to cheap medicines. Poverty is a major problem in our country. That's why my priority is to raise the salaries of Filipinos. |
| <br>**Gregorio Honasan**<br>Independent | Curbing political dynasties was incorporated in bills (including those I filed) and certified as urgent during the Ramos administration but was never seriously given consideration or support. | As in laws and policies that are to be implemented by government, careful in-depth study should be made. We must be able to strike a balance between the quality and affordability of the medicines we provide our people. |
| <br>**Jamalul "Kiram" Kiram III**<br>Team Unity | Pass an enabling act to operationalize the antidynasty provision of the 1987 Constitution. | Expand the program and increase the budget allocation consistent with WHO standards and health services budget. |
| <br>**Panfilo "Ping" Lacson**<br>Genuine Opposition | I support the clamor for the establishment, finally, of the set of implementing guidelines for the antidynasty law. Political groups and families will continue to pay lip service to the advocacy for as long as this is not clearly defined and enforced, while the evident loopholes are exploited to the hilt by politicians whose motives are clearly mainly for the preservation of political power. The political family occupying Malacañang today has shown how one family easily exploits the loopholes under the present law. | Health is a priority in my advocacy as I have delineated in my HOPE legislative agenda. I, therefore, squarely support the policy allowing importation of low-priced medicines to enable Filipinos to have easier and fuller access to more medicines. Government, however, must ensure that unscrupulous parties that import low-priced but fake or substandard medicine are quickly punished. |
| <br>**Loren Legarda**<br>Genuine Opposition | There have been several, but unfortunately unsuccessful attempts, to come out with a law defining and prohibiting dynasties in public office as mandated by the Constitution. Vested interest groups always oppose any such law. Nonetheless, we must try our best to comply with the constitutional mandate. | The manufacture of pharmaceutical products in the Philippines is a virtual monopoly. This makes the price of medicines costly in our country, even if manufactured locally. India produces a lot of medicines comparable to those manufactured here. If importing medicine will bring down the cost of health care in the Philippines, then importation should be undertaken. Unrestricted importation, however, does not sound good. Only medicines which are genuine and which have not yet gone beyond their storage life should be imported. |
| <br>**Vicente "Vic" Magsaysay**<br>Team Unity | There seems to be a misuse of the word "dynasty." The usage is far from the historical version in which positions like kingship are inherited. Princes and princesses are heirs to the throne. The people have no right to choose their leaders. If the positions debated were inherited, and no elections were held, that is dynasty. In the Philippines, local officials are elected by the people. | I am for importation of low-cost medicines. |
| <br>**Cesar "Buboy" Montano**<br>Team Unity | I am in favor of banning dynasties under our political system. But we should discuss first what we mean by dynasty. We should study this very carefully. | That's a good idea. But another option is to support locally made drugs—like herbal medicines. In doing so, we are also providing jobs to our countrymen. |
| <br>**Teresa "Tessie" Oreta**<br>Team Unity | There are families that have left grand legacies of public service, which are being continued to this day. Whether candidates are part of a dynasty by virtue of their blood or surname, we have the power to elect them into office or throw them into obscurity. It's unfair to disqualify people belonging to the same family or clan if they are qualified and capable to serve. The next Congress must discuss the limits of political dynasty. Perhaps holding of the same elective positions at the same time can be prohibited. | The cost of medicine in the country is one of the highest in Asia. The high cost becomes a major stumbling block to improving the well-being of Filipinos. Importing low-priced medicines may be one option to address the problem. However, we must ensure that standards of quality are met. In addition, we need to strengthen the capacities of regulatory bodies such as the Bureau of Customs and Bureau of Food and Drugs in order to prevent the entry of fake and substandard medicines. |
| <br>**John Henry "Sonny" Osmeña**<br>Genuine Opposition | Basically, it should not infringe on individual rights. It should not close access to the relatives of those who hold office. | I am in favor of low-priced drugs. |
| <br>**Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan**<br>Liberal Party | We believe that there is a need to enact an Anti-Dynasty Law that will regulate rather than prohibit members of the same family from seeking elective posts. We do not question the capabilities of members of the same family to serve competently in public office, but we need to have policies that can ensure broader representation in governance. | Because it's economically beneficial for the country and people, importing low-priced medicines is a boon. If it poses a challenge to the local pharmaceutical industry, it should be taken as a chance for the industry to be more competitive. The benefit of having cheap but quality medicines for our people should prevail. These are the reasons the Senate passed the patents bill on the third reading before we ended session in February. The House of Representatives should give immediate attention to this bill when we resume session in July. |
| <br>**Zosimo "Jess" Paredes**<br>Kapatiran | Enact, forthwith, the long-delayed antidynasty law. Hence, ban all dynastic candidates from elections! | Yes, but necessary measures must be put in place to ensure safety and efficacy for the protection of the public. This should be resorted to only for the short term. For the long term, the government must encourage and develop homegrown or domestically manufactured medicines which could prove to be cheaper, safer, more effective, and more readily available. |
| <br>**Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III**<br>Genuine Opposition | I have an open mind on antidynasty proposals in Congress. But to be realistic about it, I will start with the position of the Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, which is the most powerful position in our presidential form of government. | Low-priced medicines should be allowed entry to our country but subject to strict quality checks. |
| <br>**Ralph "Korecto" Recto**<br>Team Unity | I will have no problem in voting for a bill if a good one is introduced. Political families are not a sole Philippine phenomenon. America has its Kennedys and Bushes, India has its Gandhis. In the Philippines, there's supposedly a mechanism against dynasties and they're called elections. The people should use these if they think power has been concentrated in one clan. The bottom line is, people should look at the track record and qualifications of a candidate, not just at his surname. | Like the medicines we take, importation should be of the right dosage and kind. The challenge is not to import from India, but to copy India, which has been able to provide cheap medicines to its people by manufacturing essential drugs, to the extent of skirting patent limitations. |
| <br>**Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr.**<br>Team Unity | There is an antidynasty provision in the Constitution and I think we have to enact the enabling law. | There should be a balance between the importation of low-priced medicines and the need to let the local drug industry continue to be viable. We need to import low-priced medicines to help our countrymen cope with the high drug prices but we don't also want to kill the local drug industry. So there should be a balance. |
| <br>**Sonia "Inang Guro" Roco**<br>Genuine Opposition | Explicitly written in our 20-year-old Constitution is an antidynasty provision, which through all these years has not been defined. It is about time that the incoming Congress take this bull by the horns and settle the issue once and for all. Only President Estrada has openly demonstrated it can be done, by asking his son, JV Ejercito, to withdraw his candidacy for the Senate, thus providing a slot for me on the Genuine Opposition slate. | Are the multinationals providing reasonably priced medicines? Is the distribution of imported medicines democratized? Is the use of herbal and traditional medicine and methods sufficiently promoted and supported by the government?<br>The 54-percent self-rated poor badly need cheap, unexpired medicines. Can they be bought at the Botika ng Bayan? |
| <br>**Luis "Chavit" Singson**<br>Team Unity | The lineage of any national or local candidate for election in a public office does not actually matter. The bottom line is the capability of the elected officials to govern or legislate effectively. However, we must accept the fact that voters prefer candidates related to former or incumbent officials, who have rendered meritorious service. Nonetheless, we must strengthen mechanisms providing the people with the opportunity to remove ineffective and corrupt officials, who were elected into office by virtue of their political ties or affinity. | I am totally in favor of the parallel importation of low-priced medicines as it redounds to the benefit of the great majority of our countrymen. However, I also believe that we must resolutely pursue a comprehensive health program that includes allocation of substantial research and development funds for "alternative herbal-based medicines" or drugs made from indigenous materials that abound in the Philippines. We must develop our local pharmaceutical industry to lessen our dependence on imported medicines. |
| <br>**Adrian Sison**<br>Kapatiran | Pass the antidynasty law. | Importation of low-priced medicines is a priority. |
| <br>**Vicente "Tito" Sotto III**<br>Team Unity | I'm in favor of an antidynasty law although I, myself, am from a political family. The reason such a law had not been passed is the difficulty of coming up with a clear and reasonable definition of the term "political dynasty." To what degree of consanguinity or affinity should the prohibition apply? To what positions or combination of positions should it apply? It would be unfair to have a broad prohibition preventing qualified candidates from running for public office just because some members of their families are already in public service. | Importing low-priced medicines is a major step in addressing the problem of access to affordable and quality medicines. However, we must ensure that standards of quality are always met and are constantly kept updated. In the case of low-cost imported medicines, quality must be a priority. We also need to explore and develop more alternative and traditional medicines, which may be more affordable to the majority of our people. In addition, we need to strengthen the capability of regulatory bodies such as the Bureau of Food and Drugs in order to prevent the entry of fake and below-standard medicines. |
| <br>**Antonio "Magdalo" Trillanes IV**<br>Genuine Opposition | It's for the people to decide. It's unfair to ban a potential young leader just because he is the son of an incumbent official. | I support the importation of low-priced medicines. |
| <br>**Manuel "Manny" Villar Jr.**<br>Genuine Opposition | It is still the genuine will of the people in an election exercise that really matters as the choice of our leaders solely rests in the hands of the electorate. | Under my watch as Senate President, the Senate approved the bill lowering the prices of medicines by amending our Patents Law to allow the importation and early development of patented medicines to greatly alleviate the health care needs of our people. |
| <br>**Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri**<br>Team Unity | I believe that every person has the right to run for public office. If we hindered people from running for public office then this would not be democracy. Why should we stop people from running for public office if they are competent and qualified to do so? We should always let the people decide who they want to represent them. But the implementing rules should be made clear to prevent the rule of just a few families in many areas of this country. | The high cost of medicine affects the poor more than the rich. Thus, it is only right and in the interest of the Filipinos for the government to find ways to lower medicine prices. This could be done by buying low-priced medicines abroad, fostering the local generic medicine industry, eliminating the monopoly of big medicine manufacturers, and placing prices of essential and life-saving medicine under government control. Not only manufactured medicine can be imported. Technologies in the manufacture of medicines with expired patents can also be adopted in the country by drug companies, so we can make cheaper medicines. |

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions

# Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
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Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

## Bishop slams 'sham' peace covenants

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Bishop Ramon Villena of the Catholic diocese here assailed the pretense being shown by some candidates who sign peace covenants but continue to sow terror in the campaign leading to the May 14 elections.

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para KAGAWAD

**ELECTIONS** claimed its first casualty in Albay, retired Chief Insp. Enrique Bausa, an independent candidate running for councilor in Daraga town, who was shot dead Thursday. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Villena said it was "unfortunate" that a grenade attack at the house of Aritao Mayor Ruben Sayo on Friday marked the first incident of election-related violence in the province, less than five days after the signing of a peace covenant by political leaders here on Sunday.

"This [incident] goes to show that some of these candidates signed the covenant only for show, that their pledge was not really sincere," he said.

On Friday, unidentified suspects lobbed a grenade inside the compound of Sayo in Aritao. The blast damaged his vehicle but the mayor and his family members were unhurt.

On Sunday, local candidates signed and swore to a peace covenant at the Saint Dominic cathedral here to ensure a peaceful, orderly and honest conduct of the elections.

Villena described the grenade attack as "atrocious," which, he said, was the handiwork of politicians who are "so ambitious and greedy for power."

"I strongly condemn the said bombing, whatever may be its purpose, for it surely creates an intimidation and fear to the people. I strongly denounce the persons behind it, especially that it happened during the heat of the electoral campaign," he said in a statement.

He asked candidates to "spend the remaining time of the campaign period to focus on your development agenda."

In Baguio City, a priest urged candidates to pursue peace while they wage their electoral fights.

Rev. Fr. Andres Cosalan of the Baguio Catholic diocese said priests in the Cordillera never failed to cite the importance of peace in their homilies at a time when election-related violent incidents are reported in Abra and Kalinga.

"Election time is difficult for all of us; even priests are victims of violence. But we still believe in the power of prayers. It is what we can do to be able to promote peace," Cosalan told the INQUIRER.

"In Abra and Kalinga, priests are doing their best to promote peace, but there are limitations because violence is beyond them," he said.

Both provinces are included in the Commission on Elections' list of "election areas of immediate concern" due to past poll-related incidents of violence.

Cosalan said aside from prayers, the Catholic Church is intensifying its efforts to promote awareness on responsible voting by conducting voters' education campaigns in parishes.

He said the Church also participates in organizing activities and election forums where local candidates commit to a peace covenant.

Cosalan said the Church would remain vocal about its concern in the elections because moral issues, such as graft and corruption, should be addressed.

"When we speak about the [malpractices] in the election, we always expect threats. We fear for our lives, too, because after all, we are also human beings. But we have faith that the Lord is with us … We do not run away from [our responsibility]," Cosalan said.

In Nueva Ecija, the six policemen assigned to Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino, who were accused of firing the first shots in last week's clash in Jaen town were replaced on Tuesday.

Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Central Luzon police director, said the policemen, all members of the regional mobile group (RMG), were replaced by eight members of the police's Special Action Forces (SAF). *Melvin Gascon and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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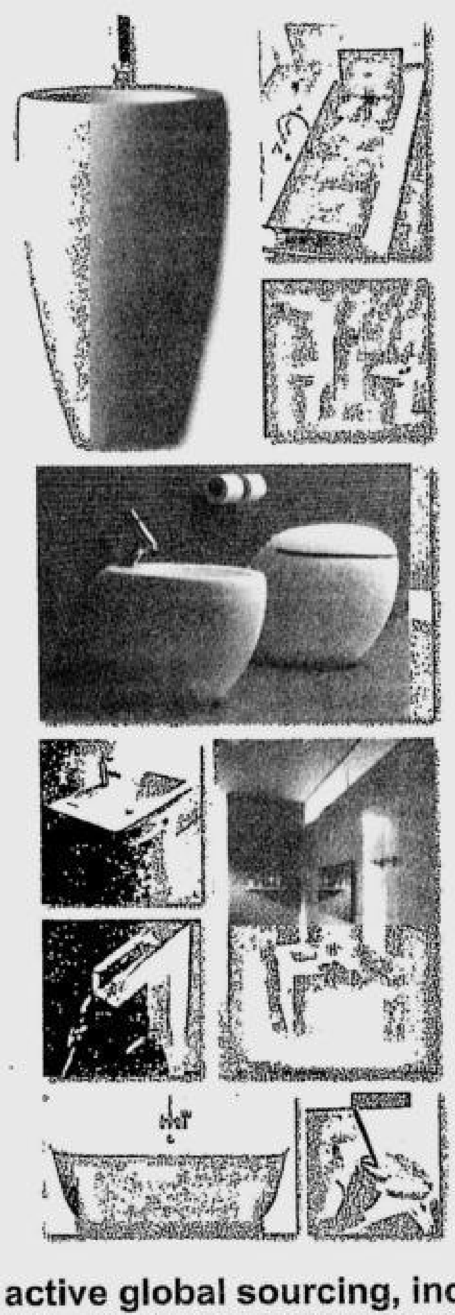

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## ROUNDUP

### Holiday in San Pablo City

SAN PABLO CITY—President Macapágal-Arroyo has declared Monday, May 7, a special nonworking holiday in this city as it celebrates its 67th founding anniversary. Ms Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 1285 on May 3, through Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, declaring Monday, May 7, 2007, a special nonworking holiday in San Pablo City to give its people the opportunity to celebrate their 67th foundation day. The mayor's office said this year's celebration will be more subdued compared to previous commemorative programs because the incumbent chief executive, Mayor Vicente B. Amante, is running for reelection, and he does not want the celebration to be used for campaigning. The program will be under the chairmanship of City Administrator Loreto S. Amante, who also chaired the 12th Coconut Festival and Mardi Gras Contest last January.

*Romulo O. Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

### Two inmates bolt Siaton jail

DUMAGUETE CITY—Two inmates bolted the district jail of Siaton, 50 km south of here, by seizing two firearms and shooting their jail guard. Senior Supt. Melvin Ramon Buenafe, the provincial police director, identified the escapees as Rico Hiyog, 22, and Cadiz Quezon, 34, both from Siaton town. They brought with them an M-16 rifle and a .45 cal. pistol belonging to the Siaton District Jail. Hiyog and Quezon overpowered their guard, JO2 Roy Catiangcila, and shot him in the leg. Catiangcila was rushed to a hospital and is now out of danger.

*Alex Pal, Inquirer Visayas*

### Napocor interconnects with Panay

ILOILO City—The National Power Corp. (Napocor) has interconnected with this city's sole power distribution firm, Panay Electric Company (Peco), to augment the city's power requirements. Napocor will supply Peco a steady 20-megawatt power "at anytime" in an "agreement in principle" reached by both companies, said Napocor president Cyril del Callar, who was here during the switch on ceremony Thursday. Officials from both Peco and Napocor were to sign the contract to affirm the agreement on Thursday but it did not push through because of a death in the Cacho family, the majority owner of Peco.

*Nestor Burgos, Inquirer Visayas*

### Cory brother running for gov

OF ALL the sports personalities seeking positions in the coming elections in just over a week, Jose "Peping" Cojuangco has the biggest task at hand and the biggest responsibility. The current Philippine Olympic Committee president will be gunning for the governor's post in his native Tarlac, joining the political arena yet again. "It's a calling I have to answer," said Cojuangco, who hosted reporters at the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac recently. "Serving the people of my province has been my job since way back. I don't see any reason why I would have to turn my back on them." The 72-year-old has occupied many positions in Tarlac before and will be vying for the gubernatorial post for the first time. He started as a councilor in 1957, became vice mayor and then mayor of Paniqui town. He finished three terms as congressman in 2000.

*Musong Castillo*

## Police seize guns in dawn raid

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Elements of the Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG) of the Calabarzon police raided the houses of three suspected drug pushers in Biñan, Laguna, and arrested two men for keeping unlicensed firearms on Saturday dawn.

Arrested were Ramon Garcia, 53, of Barangay San Vicente, Biñan, and barangay councilor Rodel Guico, 37, of Barangay Sto. Domingo, Biñan.

Supt. Roger James Brillantes, RSOG chief, said the simultaneous raids on the houses of the suspects were covered by search warrants issued by Judge Cesar Mangrobang of the Imus, Cavite Regional Trial Court.

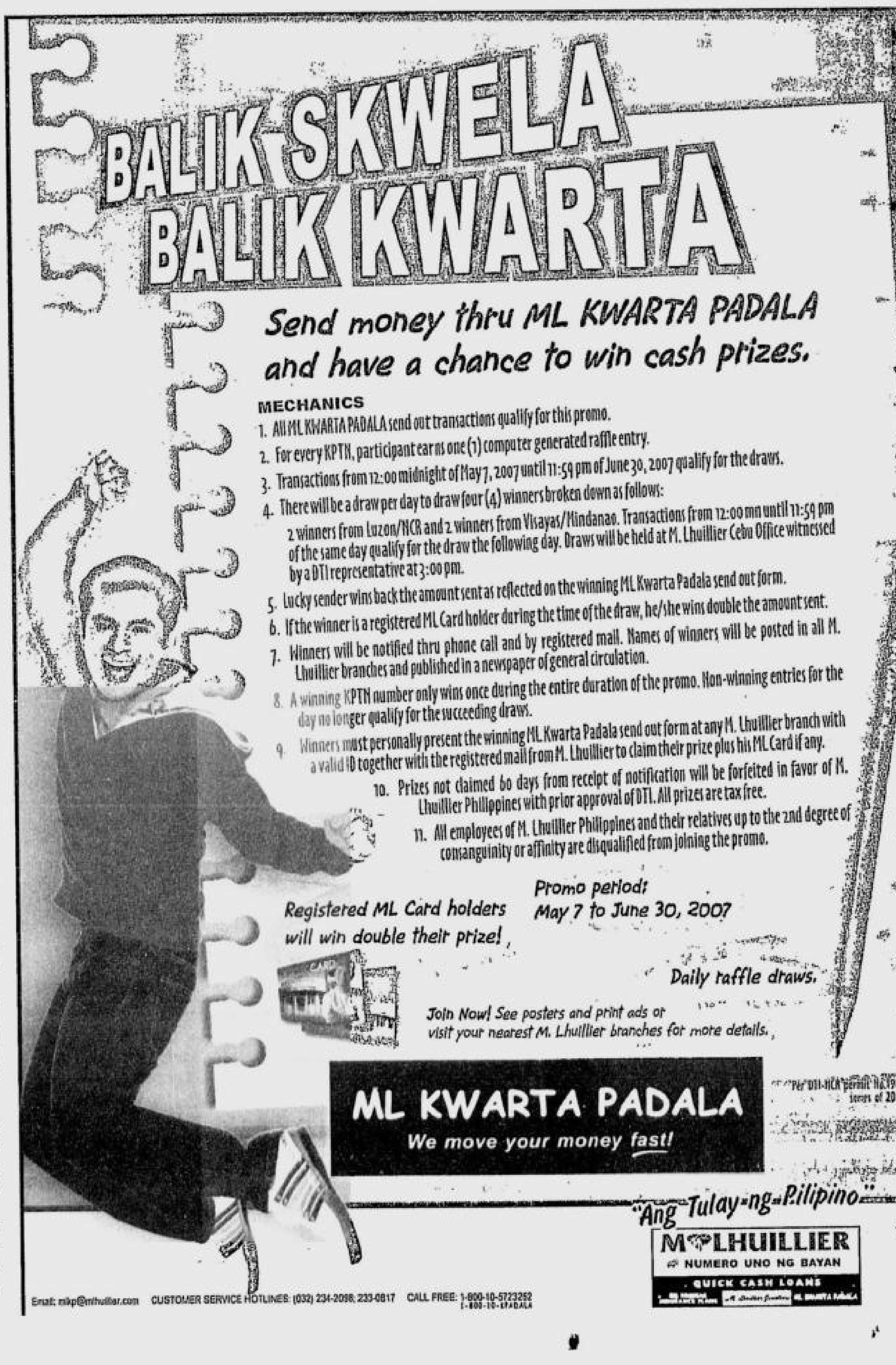
Brillantes said his men swooped down on the houses of the suspects at around 5:30 a.m.

He said an unlicensed M16 assault rifle and a magazine loaded with bullets were seized from Garcia while a .45-cal. pistol was confiscated from Guico.

He said that aside from the residences of the two, the police raided the house of a certain Alfero Arcega but it yielded negative results.

Brillantes said the three were among those in the watchlist of persons involved in the illegal drug trade in the area.

He said police will file charges of illegal possession of firearms against the suspects. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



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# Aetas unpaid for land taken by BCDA for flagship project

PORAC, PAMPANGA—THE GOVERNMENT's flagship project Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway has occupied 50 hectares of land within what Aeta people here claim as part of their ancestral domain.

The government, they said, has not also paid them for the land.

Aeta elders Jungle Serrano and Bantasan Cosme, as well as Benny Capuno of the Kaparanakem Ku, the organization of Aeta in Porac and Floridablanca towns, revealed this at the sidelines of the tribe's observance of the International Earth Day here on Saturday.

Serrano, 86, said the road encroached on their land near Hacienda Ramona.

"*Penyalakayan de ing lutan tua. Angga man ngeni ala pang bayad. Madadakurot ya ing katuliran mi* (They encroached on our ancestral domain. Up to now they have not paid us. Our rights to our land are violated)," Serrano said.

Roberto Gervacio, SCTEX manager for operations support, disputed the claims of the Aeta elders.

"That's impossible since all lot owners have been identified," Gervacio said. "No Aeta land was occupied by the project."

The SCTEX is a 94-km, four lane toll road being built by the government's Bases Conversion Development Authority.

As counterpart in the P21-billion Japanese loan used to build the road, the BCDA claimed it bought more than 1,200 lots for the road's right-of-way.

Capuno said the Aeta have no titles to show ownership of their ancestral domain.

"Per the memories of our elders, the whole mountains, including Mt. Pinatubo and the hills below them, belong to us Aeta in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales," Capuno said.

Serrano said he brought their problem with the SCTEX to the attention of Sen. Jamby Madrigal in October last year.

"I hope [Madrigal] follows up on it," he said.

Saturday's Earth Day event for the Aeta turned out to be full of lament.

They signed a petition paper asking the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples to cancel a memorandum of agreement their village officials signed with the Pisumpan Copper Mines Inc. in October last year as precondition for exploration on Mt. Negron in Barangay Kamias.

Cosme said the MOA was signed without the consent of elders and other residents.

PCMI has yet to start studies or operations.

Serrano said he feared that their resistance to the mining project might bring more soldiers to the villages, like 15 years ago when another mining company operated in the Zambales boundary.

"The land is like life and a mother to us," Capuno said.

Cosme said eco-tourism projects have also become more of a disadvantage to them as foreign and local companies deal only with local officials, leaving them out in the consultation process.

"They take away even the water that flows in our waterfalls to sell as mineral water for trekkers," he said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

## Soldiers, DENR men seize logs from Sierra Madre

LUCENA CITY—SOLDIERS AND AGENTS OF the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (Naectaf) dealt another blow against illegal loggers in Quezon province when they seized at least 2,536 board feet of narra flitches believed illegally cut in the Sierra Madre, according to a report from an environmentalist group.

Glenn Forbes, Tanggol Kalikasan program officer, said a team from the Naectaf and the Army's 2nd Special Forces Company, headed by 1Lt. Benedict Harvey Gernale, confiscated the narra flitches on April 30.

"Acting on an intelligence report that the coastal village of San Jose in Mauban, Quezon, is being used as transshipment site of illegal logs coming from Palanan, Isabela, government forces immediately conducted operation in the area," Forbes said.

The team discovered 63 pieces of abandoned narra flitches amounting to over P600,000, based on the current market price in Manila.

According to the military, the hot logs were often transported by sea to the coastal village of Caridad in Atimonan and Plaridel and Gumaca towns.

Sources from the military also suspected that unscrupulous DENR personnel in Quezon were acting in cahoots with Palanan-based illegal log traders by providing security and safe transport of illegal logs to their destinations.

Two vehicles loaded with undocumented first-class timber, worth close to P80,000, were also seized by the military in two incidents in Rizal province.

In a report, Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, who also heads the Naectaf, said the apprehensions took place in Antipolo and Rodriguez, Rizal.

In Antipolo, around 1,500 board feet of *lauan* flitches were seized last April 19 by an Army contingent, under Capt. Danilo Escandor, while being transported in Barangay San Jose aboard a jeep.

*Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

## Right-hand drive vehicles seized in Cebu

**By Jolene R. Bulambot**
*Inquirer Visayas*

CEBU CITY—THE BUREAU OF CUSToms intercepted on Friday two illegal shipments of right-hand drive vehicles that were smuggled to the port of Cebu from Japan, District Collector Ricardo Belmonte yesterday said.

The shipments were grounded after they arrived in Cebu port on April 14 on board MV Eagle Excellence after Commissioner Napoleon Morales, head of Task Force Against Smuggling (TFAS), issued an alert status, Belmonte said.

Six right-hand drive motor vehicles were discovered inside two container vans consigned to Mayato Motors Corp., based in Mandaue City, and Century Motors Trading in Talisay City.

Belmonte said the shipments were wrongly declared as used replacement parts for trucks but they contained right-hand drive vehicles instead.

A Toyota Fun Cargo, Toyota Caldina and Toyota Carina consigned to Century Motors Trading and a Mitsumi Diamante, a Toyota TRG and Mitsubishi Largo consigned to Mayato Motors Co. were found in the container vans held at Cebu International Port (CIP).

These vehicles were being thrown away in Japan as junk and shipped to the Philippines.

Belmonte said the estimated value of the shipments was P3 million.

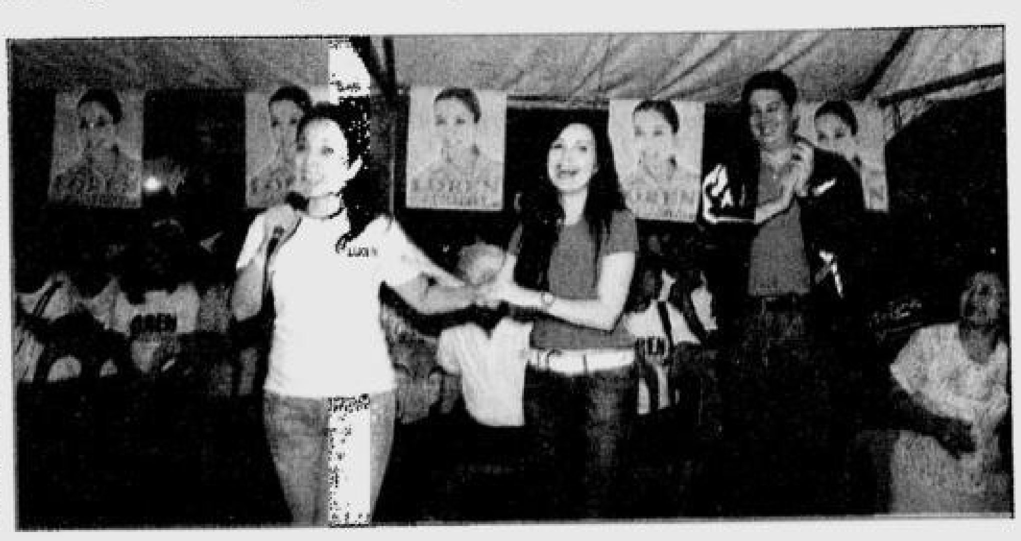
A warrant for seizure and detention (WSD) would be issued on Monday as the investigation is being conducted against the consignees, Belmonte said.

No representatives from the consignees were present during last Friday's inspection and opening of the vans despite notices issued to them, he added.

The collector said they were checking the legitimacy and records of the consignees. Both were found to be not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

A press statement from the Bureau of Customs said that TFAS received information that smuggling syndicates have shifted operations from Manila to other ports.

Morales, in a separate interview, said smuggling activities in Manila had decreased, prompting smugglers to transfer operations to other ports.



**TACLOBAN SORTIE**
**Leading opposition senatorial candidate Loren Legarda takes to the stage with Alfred Romualdez, candidate for mayor of Tacloban City, and his wife Cristina. Legarda leads recent surveys for senatorial candidates but said she was not letting her guard down.**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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**E-mail:** inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph
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# Mindanao issues take poll backseat

**By Germelina Lacorte**
*Davao City*

IS MINDANAO TAKING the backseat in this election?

"Whether you like it or not, the election in May is a personality contest among candidates," said Rey Magno Teves, convenor of the Kusog Mindanao as the last salvo of the election campaign heats up in Davao City.

"Real issues—including Mindanao issues—are set aside until after the elections."

Teves, who used to lobby for an increased share of Mindanao in the country's national budget, said candidates were hardly to blame for the absence of a clear articulation of issues on the island. There is simply no conscious pressure for them to do so, he said.

"A Mindanao vote is so far-fetched," said Teves, who once helped convene the Kusog Mindanaw round-table forum in 1998 to solicit from presidential candidates their stand on issues affecting Mindanao.

Even from candidates who claim to have roots in Mindanao, nothing can be expected much, he said. "If they cannot articulate a clear understanding on Mindanao issues, what can you expect from them?"

## Missing dynamic

Teves said a Mindanao agenda for election could not come from an individual alone but from the dynamics of "different institutions, individuals, public and private agencies, whose reasons for being is to implement programs designed to address the Mindanao situation."

At present, this dynamic is still painfully missing, he said. The absence of a strong pressure on candidates to focus on issues had confined the election fight to a battle of personalities.

Everything, he said, had to wait until after election time. "It's the reality in Philippine election," he said. "The electoral campaign is personal and everything else becomes secondary."

But even as people are left with very limited choices, Teves said, the sprouting of party-list groups with strong Mindanao perspectives were, to some extent, doing what the traditional politicians failed to do: Bring Mindanao to the election discussion.

When the Estrada administration declared an all-out war in Mindanao in 2000, Moro people were dismayed that no one among high Moro officials in Congress and the Cabinet dared speak against it. The war, which was repeated during the Arroyo administration, had displaced thousands of people in Moro communities from their homes.

## Voice of the Moro

Zainab Ampatuan, chair of the Bangsamoro party-list group Suara (Voice), said this had inspired most of the Bangsamoro youth to set up a group that would carry the Moro voice and interest in Congress.

"We wanted a group that can carry the voice of the Bangsamoro in Mindanao, without alienating the indigenous peoples and the Christians," she said.

"*Suara*" means voice, shared among the ethno-linguistic tribes of Maranao, Tausug, Iranun and Maguindanao and the Bahasa-speaking Malays in Malaysia and Indonesia. The group banners the Moro people's quest for self-determination and other issues affecting Moros, Christians and indigenous peoples in Mindanao.

Other party-list groups include the Anak Mindanao (Amin) and the Alyansa of Indigenous Filipinos (Alif), which articulates some issues affecting the Moros.

For Suara's Ampatuan, the more groups there are to banner Mindanao issues, the better. Election season or not, Suara has been known to speak against human rights violations, torture and disappearances of Moro leaders, she said.

Even with the fragile peace and three-decades-old Moro insurgency, the group seeks to bring to the legal forum the issues that had caused the conflict, in the first place, she said.

## Party-list groups

Under Republic Act No. 7941 or the Party-list System Act of 1995, party-list groups are allowed a seat in Congress if they win at least two percent of all votes cast. Each group is allowed at most three seats, or six percent of the votes cast for party-list during the elections.

"We have to do away with Moro representatives who don't speak the interest of the people," said Ampatuan. "Our people long to have a voice in the halls of Congress," she said.

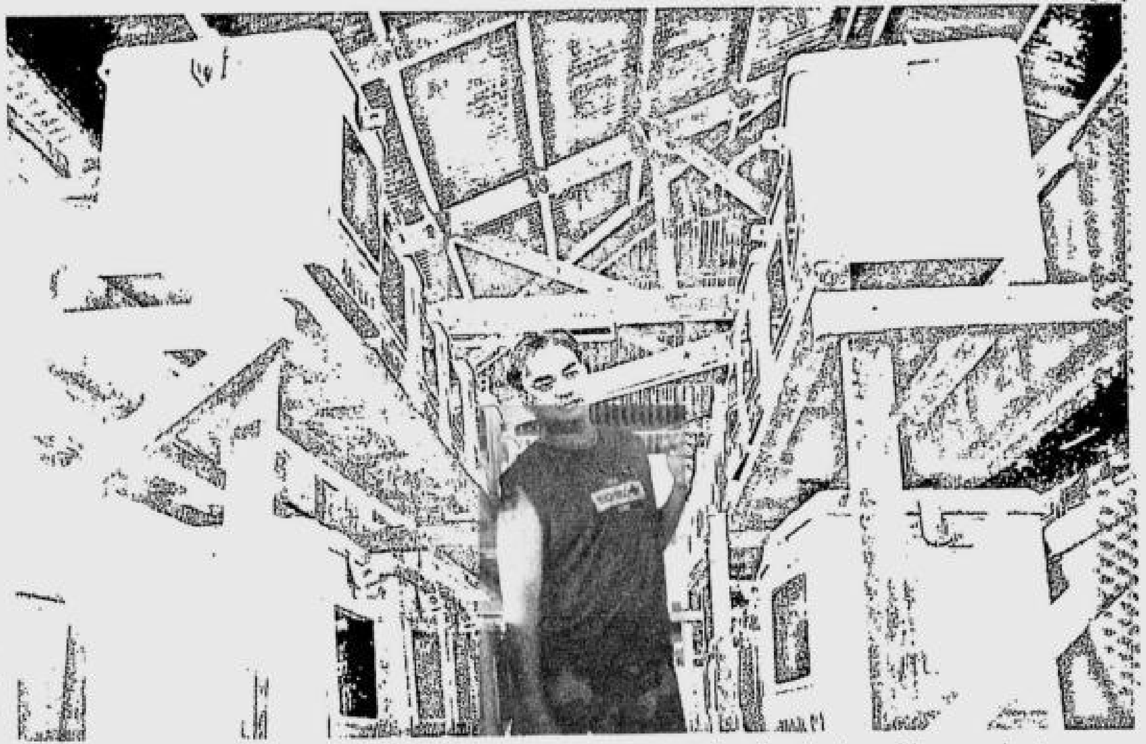
This absence of voice coming from the Moro people has made the Suara garner enough support in the 2004 election.

Ampatuan claimed that had it not been for the "*dagdag-bawas*" (vote padding and shaving) allegedly happening in Moro communities with strong military presence and the black propaganda against her group, Suara would have won a seat in Congress in the last elections.

She said the group would continue to oppose policies and laws that are against the Moro people. It also wants to unite the 13 different Moro tribes with indigenous peoples and the Christians.

Ampatuan said most of the women and youth leaders of Suara easily won over the hearts and minds of Moro communities, which traditionally relied on male leadership and the feudal rule of their datus. It must be because the datu has this traditional role to "defend the rights of his people" when it is under attack, and this is the same right the group is trying to defend and protect in Congress, she said.

This is just the beginning, however, Ampatuan said.



**A COMELEC employee inspects the 700 new ballot boxes for distribution in polling precincts.**

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

# Martial arts expert weans youth away from drug influence

**By Nash B. Maulana**
*Inquirer Mindanao*

JOLO, SULU—AS GOVERNMENT forces pursue lawless elements in a seemingly endless cycle of violence, another battle is being waged to keep this island-province safe, shedding not blood but sweat.

Sports development has taken center stage in an effort to deter criminality among Muslim youths and help wean them away from armed banditry and drug addiction.

One of those at the forefront of the physical fitness campaign is Aleem Shariff Jul Asiri Aberin, the province's mufti (guardian of the Islamic House of Opinion).

"Sports activities get our youth into the ways and path of better molding as future citizens of the land and try to get them away from drugs and bad influence," Aberin said.

'Martial arts and Islam are a good blend of eastern disciplines ...'

Aberin is a martial arts expert and teaches at the Ton Jing martial arts club on Moore Avenue in Barangay Alat. The club is where the Sulu Shotokan Karate Club, a member of the Philippine Karate do Federation (PKF), holds sessions.

At least 200 members have registered since the club was founded about 10 years ago.

Aberin said he was certain that none of the alumni had become members or sympathizers of any terror group, including the Abu Sayyaf.

The mufti attributed this claim to what he described as the "blend" in the spiritual and social teachings of Islam, and physically, of martial arts.

"Martial arts and Islam are a good blend of eastern disciplines, physically and spiritually," he said.

Aberin, who is also a councilor of this town, admitted that efforts to draw the youth into physical fitness activities were somewhat hampered by the military's antiterror operations. Sports enthusiasts hope to enhance their activities in all of the 410 barangays, but pocket wars have engulfed villages most of the time.

The government has resumed its campaign over the weekend with offensives against the group of Habier Malik of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and a band of brigands blamed for the beheading of seven construction workers last week.

Sulu has 18 municipalities, including this ancient town of eight barangays, which take active part in basketball leagues, according to local sports officials.

Aberin, 46, a second-dan black belt karate expert, wields his influence, both as a religious authority and municipal council member, in the province-wide sports campaign among residents.

Of medium build, Aberin is probably the only elected leader who goes around without a sidearm or armed bodyguards.

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# Nuns' nursing school cares

From page A1

they opened a nursing program that teaches students spirituality along with the science of the course.

"Instead of complaining about nurses going abroad because they [want to earn more] money, we will help [produce] nurses who care," says Sr. Ancille Elveña, SSpS, president of the CHS College of Nursing.

Elveña, herself a nurse, raises a similar observation: When Filipino nurses began "selling like hotcakes" overseas in the mid-1990s, nursing schools sprang up in practically every corner of the country and fresh graduates flew out shortly after being granted precious visas.

## Commercialization

"Whether they have it in their hearts or not, [many] take up nursing because it's the easiest way to get to the United States, Canada, or elsewhere. That's the sad thing with the commercialization of the profession," Elveña laments.

She points out that some nurses today are turning into plain "medicine dispensers" and are less generous with their time compared to others before the nursing boom, who did not count the minutes to their canteen break or day off and were not as bothered about their monthly pay as the quality of their service.

The nursing dean, Bro. Ricardo Atencio, SVD, has one fear that stems from the tainted nursing board exams in 2006—that with dollars as the drawing card, more new graduates may take a shortcut by also cheating their way to the good life abroad.

"What else could be the reason for the massive cheating last year? In the 1980s, students took up nursing because they wanted to 'serve humanity.' But now, it's because they want to earn dollars," he says.

## Seeing God in others

The nursing school has taken up the challenge. To veer away from the gross commercialism that now plagues the profession, it has introduced "added dimensions" in its four-year program aimed at producing nurses imbued with the "Trinitarian Mission Spirituality."

In layman's terms, it means "seeing God in others," Elveña says.

For one semester in all levels, students attend a subject, Supervised Clinical Pastoral Education (SCPE), where they learn to serve patients beyond the latter's physical needs.

Atencio explains that 80 percent of pathological ailments are rooted in troubled souls, so it is important to attend to a patient's spiritual side to expedite healing.

SCPE thus puts emphasis on spiritual care, and students are trained to become a comforting presence through simple ways—chatting with patients, lending an ear, or even just holding them.

Students are also taught such things as assisting patients take their medication, offering them water, and helping them sit up in bed in the process.

It's going the extra mile in every perfunctory hospital chore, Elveña says.

## Testing the spirit

But if CHS nursing students are to become attuned to their patients' spiritual needs, their own spirit will have to be tested.

During the summer, before entering their senior year, students are sent to stay in a far-flung community where healthcare services range from barely there to none.

The school's first graduating batch, composed of 35 young women, are completing their month-long "community immersion experience" in the hinterlands of San Jose, Tarlac, where they are helping neglected residents organize a healthcare system. (They are expected to return to Manila on May 10.)

According to Atencio, the students are staying in a small two-story house made of bamboo, with the sky mostly making up the roof.

Water is drawn from a pump; the source of light on the second floor is a lone incandescent bulb.

The first few days of the immersion apparently came as a shock to some students, especially those from wealthy families.

Worried parents even attempted to rent a house nearby so they could check on their children.

But this is against the program's policies, Atencio points out, adding that he had to reprimand a student who sneaked her pet dog into the house because she could not sleep well without it.

## Empathy

"This is part of their formation and training so that in the future they will know how to understand and empathize with their patients," Elveña says.

She hopes that the students' exposure to their fellow Filipinos' impoverished conditions will soften the worldly appeal of the nursing profession and inspire them to stay in their motherland to serve.

But she concedes that the school cannot totally prevent its graduates from traveling to distant shores.

"Proactively, we teach them to ask [themselves] about their mission and God's calling ... with the hope that if they are attuned to these questions, they can make better decisions," she says.

The spiritual education extends to the school's base hospital, the Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital (OLLH) in Mandaluyong City, where students put theory into practice thrice weekly.

Elveña has worked in the CHS-owned and -managed hospital for 15 years at various intervals since 1961, at one point serving as nurse supervisor.

Editha Reyes, assistant directress of the OLLH nursing service, started there as a nurse in 1983.

## Missionaries anywhere

But, again, like the school, the 60-year-old hospital dedicated to, among others, "serve every patient with the Christian compassion of which the Gospel speaks," cannot get in the way of its nurses who dream of greener pastures abroad.

"It will be very difficult for us to stop them from doing that. What we can do is train them to be good nurses so that even if they leave us after two years, at least we know that they will become missionaries wherever they are," says Sr. Marie Bernard Ejoras, SSpS, directress of the nursing service.

Parallel to the school's mission, the OLLH focuses on spiritual care through its chaplain service—its "best feature," says Sr. Asuncion Leonor, SSpS, human resource and development officer.

With this, the spiritual arm of the CHS nursing program has somehow expanded to the hospital staff members who come from varying orientations.

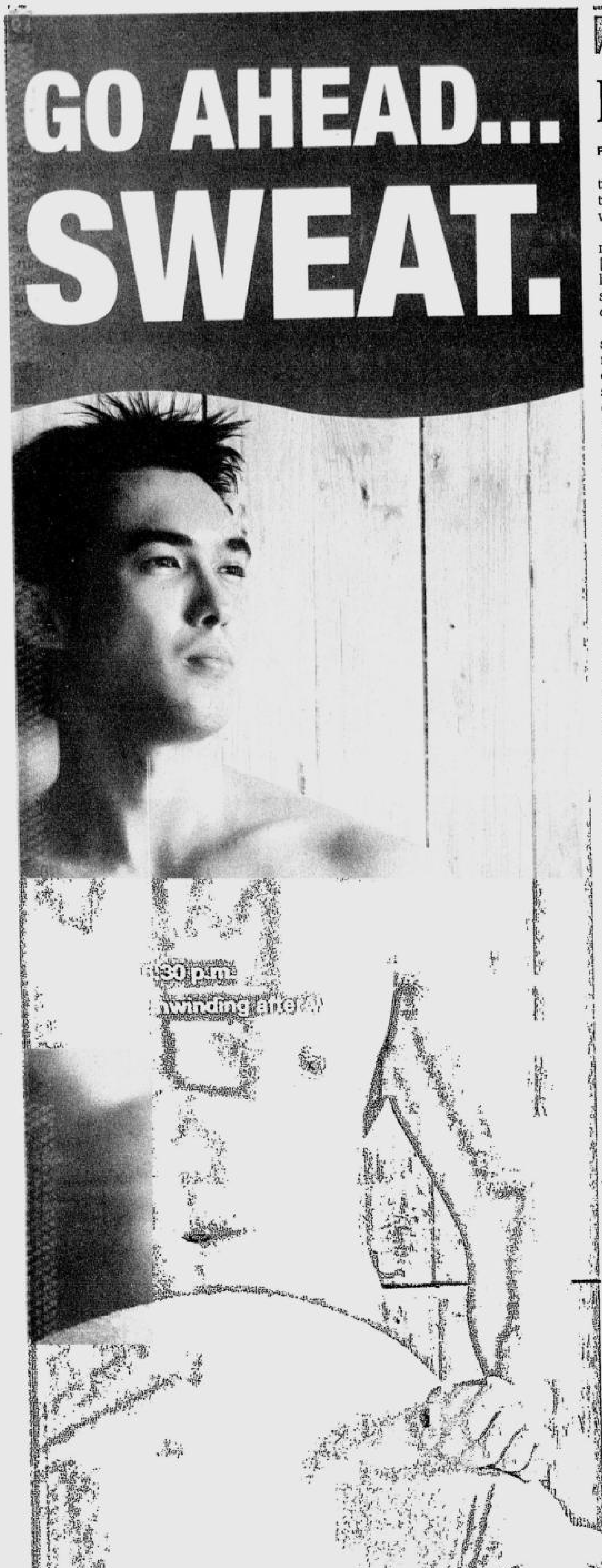
## Daily communion

Communion is administered to patients daily at 6 a.m., and regular recollections and retreats are offered yearly to the staff, Leonor says.

"This sets the tone and gives them a deeper sense of their work," says hospital administrator Sr. Irmela Carlos, SSpS.

Editha Reyes, who has grappled with the temptation to seek a better life abroad, says she feels blessed to have been imbued with the values that the nuns speak of often.

"If I did not open myself to these values when I was just starting, I could now be one of those nurses who go about their duties like a robot," she says.


GO AHEAD...
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6:30 p.m.
unwinding after

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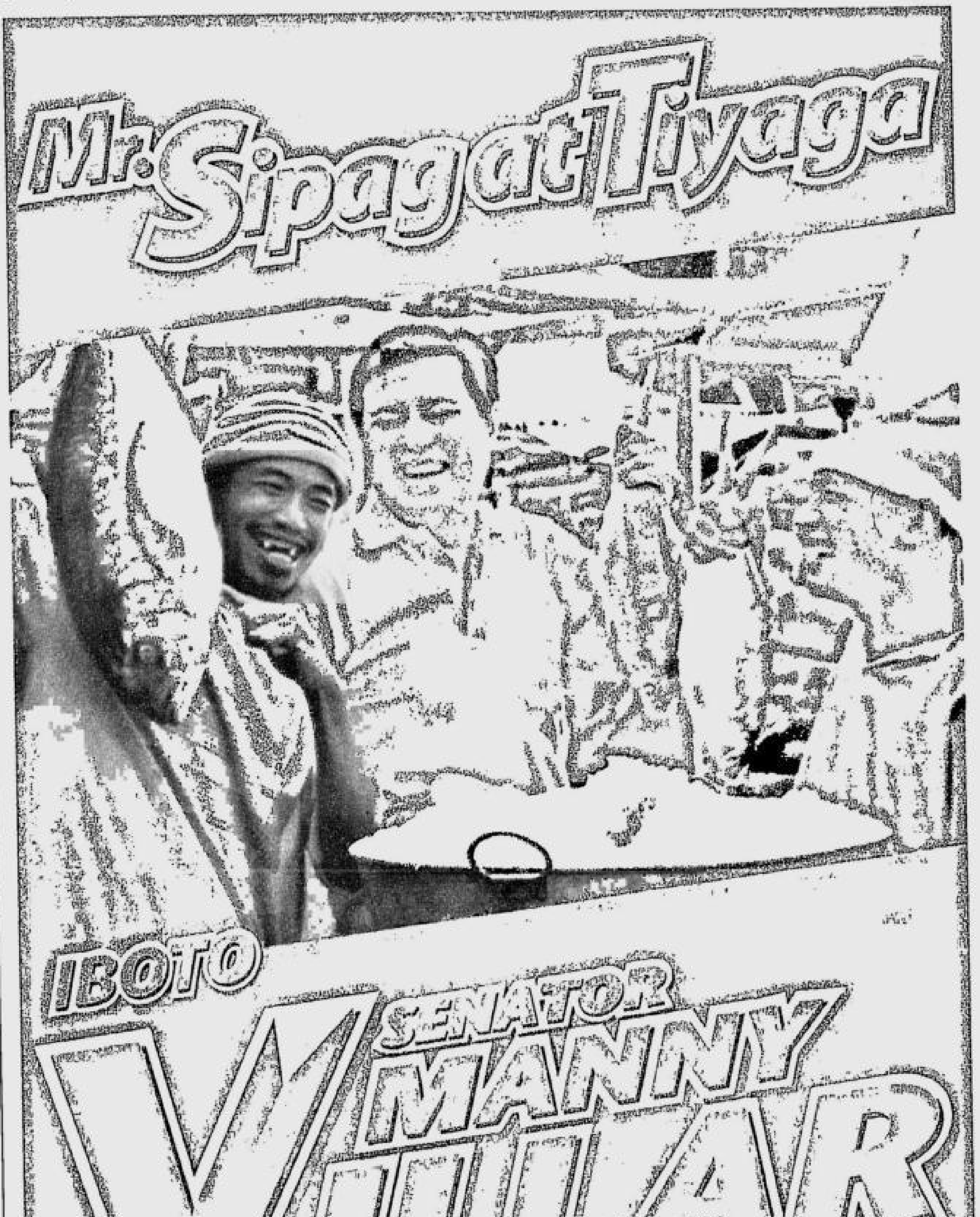
It's your body's natural way of venting off heat and flushing out toxins. In fact, sweating is crucial to normal physical functions.

Unfortunately, when you sweat, you also flush out healthy nutrients that need to be replenished even before your body feels that they are gone.



# NPA orders Mindoro mayoral bet out of town

CALAMBA CITY—Barely a day after being freed by the communist New People's Army, the reelectionist mayor of Pola, Oriental Mindoro, on Saturday said he would leave the town to comply with the NPA's condition for his release.

In a mobile phone interview, Mayor Alex Aranas said he was entrusting his reelection bid to his supporters.

"I will leave my fate to my constituents who know what I did for the progress of our town," he said.

Aranas was first abducted by the NPA while campaigning a few days before the May 10, 2004, elections. The rebels let him go a few days later.

"This is my second time to be taken by the rebels. I don't want to risk my life again. How can I serve my constituents if I'm dead?" he said.

He did not say if he paid ransom to be freed.

Aranas said that he and his two bodyguards were brought by the rebels to the hinterlands where he was asked questions regarding his governance.

He said the NPA rebels who took him were led by a Ka Harry. *Marlon Ramos and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

# Come home, DFA tells OFWs in Iraq, Nigeria

By Tarra Quismundo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS has appealed to Filipinos in Nigeria and Iraq to contact Philippine missions there if they want to come home because of the security risks in those two countries.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said Filipino workers in the two countries can avail themselves of the government's repatriation program even if the ones in Iraq violated the ban on the deployment of Filipino workers there.

"Even if you are undocumented, we will not prosecute. Just come home safe, everything is forgiven. Just present yourself, and we will take you out. It is dangerous to be in Iraq," said Esteban Conejos Jr., undersecretary for migrant workers' affairs, who relayed Romulo's appeal.

Romulo made the call following the death of a Filipino worker in a rocket attack in the US-controlled Green Zone in Baghdad and the abduction of eight Filipinos along with three Koreans from a Korean-run power plant in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, last Thursday.

"Our message has always been that Iraq is a dangerous place for our OFWs... If anyone of you would like to come home, please try to find a way to contact your friends inside who know how to contact our embassy," Conejos said at a press briefing on Friday.

He said the government had a continuing voluntary repatriation program for Filipino workers in Iraq and that the embassy in Baghdad had been directed to draw up an action plan "on how to make this offer more attractive."

Conejos also issued a stern warning to Filipinos working in the critical Niger Delta States, an oil-rich area torn by conflict between government and the insurgent Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND). MEND was involved in at least one previous abduction involving five Koreans.

"These are the most critical areas. If you work in the areas... If you want to come home, please tell us. Either negotiate with your employers to come home or if they will not agree, we will provide for your fare to come home," he said.

"If in spite of this appeal you still persist in staying there, our advice to you is to take all the necessary precautions. Don't move around at night, stay inside the barracks, stay inside your work site. Follow the security rules your company has put in place for you," Conejos said.

Even as the DFA was working with the Nigerian government to negotiate the release of the eight Filipino captives in Port Harcourt, Conejos said a consular mission had been sent there from the embassy in Abuja to bring home 45 other Filipinos working at the power plant where the abductions took place.

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## Messages

Warmest greetings to the Philippine College of Physicians as you hold your 37th Annual Convention.

The theme of your convention, *"The Filipino Physician as H.E.A.L.E.R. (Health Care Provider. Educator. Advocate. Leader. Executive Researcher.)"* speaks of your continuing pursuit of excellence in internal medicine and in related sub-specialties. As such, this event is an opportunity for participants to discuss current issues and developments that would benefit the general public.

Today, my administration is implementing innovative policies to improve our people's accessibility to health services. We are committed to bring the benefits of our economic gains to the grassroots through a more effective delivery of basic social services. I ask you to walk with me on this journey.

May you always remain a partner of my administration in beating the odds and in providing a better future for our people and our country. Have a successful convention.

*Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

Gloria Arroyo
**GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**
**President**
**Republic of the Philippine**

Our warmest greetings to all!

The theme is The Filipino Physician as H.E.A.L.E.R. The acronym stands for the five most noble roles that physicians assume Health care provider, Educator, Advocate, Leader, Executive, and Researcher.

The plenary sessions which focus on these different roles will be delivered by well chosen, distinguised, and multi-awarded internists.

There will be six break-out sessions with six simultaneous sessions for each. The format consists of interactive lectures, clinical updates 1 and 2, diagnostic tests, vital issues and physicians as educators. The committee made sure that all of the sub-specialties under the umbrella of the PCP are covered during the break-out sessions. And therefore at any given time, we will be able to address your needs and interests in pursuing the continuing medical education requirement of our profession.

It is our only hope that all of our speakers, lecturers, and panelists will be able to inspire and motivate us to become H E.A.L.E.R.S..

**RENE I. JUANEZA, MD, FPCP**
**President**

It is my honor and singular privilege as an Officer and Over-all Chair of the Organizing Committee to welcome you to the 37th Annual Convention which will be held on May 9-12, 2007 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

The venue that was chosen was in consonance with the suggestions of our members to move to a bigger venue. A lot of innovations have been made for a very successful convention. President's Banquet, Fellowship Night and Closing Ceremonies will be quite different from the previous years. No less than the President of the Republic of the Philippines will be gracing the occasion during the AG Sison Memorial Lecture.

The theme for this year is **"The Filipino Physician as H.E.A.L.E.R. (Health Care Provider, Educator,Advocate, Leader, Executive, Researcher)."**

It is the hope of the officers, Board of Regents, and members of the Organizing Committee that your presence will rekindle old friendships enrich your camaraderie, meet new acquaintances and have a lot of fun memories during the four days interaction.

Mabuhay and God bless!

**FERNANDO G. AYUYAO, M.D., FPCP**
**Vice President and Overall Chair**
**Organizing Committee, 37th Annual Convention**

## 2007 AWARDEES

Clemente M. Amante, MD, FPCP
***Most Distinguished Physician***

Lina Lantion-Ang, MD, FPCP
***Distinguished Teacher***

Diana A. Payawal, MD, FPCP
***Distinguished Researcher***

Luis Roy P. Colendrino, MD, FPCP
***Distinguished Fellow***

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## PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

## 37th Annual Convention

Theme:
The Filipino Physician as H.E.A.L.E.R.
(Health Care Provider, Educator, Advocate, Leader, Executive, Researcher)

09-12 May 2007
Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)

For futher particulars, please contact:
THE PCP SECRETARIAT:

## PROGRAM-AT-A-GLANCE

### May 10, 2007 (Thursday)

Plenary Session 1: Passion for Compassion
– Dr. Teresita S. De Guia
Plenary Session 2: PCP Thrust: Preventive Health Education
– Dr. Anthony C. Leachon
Plenary Session 3: Cardiovascular Diagnosis in the age of Technology
– Dr. Dy Bun Yok

7 Lunch Satellite Symposium and 1 Dinner Symposia, Oral and Poster Presentations. Informatics Sessions, Breakout Sessions: Interactive, Clinical Updates, Vital Issues, Physicians as Educators and Diagnostic Tests

### May 11, 2007 (Friday)

Plenary Session 4. The Internist's Role in Community Building
– Hon. Esperanza I. Cabral, MD
Plenary Session 5: Physician Executive: Expectations and Difficulties
– Dr. Romeo A. Divinagracia

AG Sison Memorial Lecture – Hon. Estrella F. Alabastro, PhD

8 Lunch Satellite Symposium , Oral and Poster Presentations, Informatics Sessions, Breakout Sessions: Interactive Sessions, Clinical Updates, Vital Issues, Physicians as Educators and Diagnostic Tests

FELLOWSHIP NIGHT: PCP goes International: A Festival of Food and Funfare

### May 12, 2007 (Saturday)

Plenary Session 6: Application of Research in the Clinical Practice
– Dr. Corazon A. Ngelangel
Plenary Session 7: Equity in Health Care. Are we widening the gap between the rich and the poor?
– Dr. Antonio L. Dans
Plenary Session 8: The Filipino Physician as H.E.A.L.E.R.
– Dr. Tito P. Torralba

5 Lunch Satellite Symposium , Oral and Poster Presentations, Informatics Sessions, Sessions, Breakout Sessions: Interactive Sessions, Clinical Updates, Vital Issues, Physicians as Educators and Diagnostic Tests

PCP Medical Quiz Contest – Grand Finals

## Theme: The Filipino Physician as H.E.A.L.E.R. (Health Care Provider, Educator, Advocate, Leader, Executive, Researcher)

**Healthcare Provider.**
Physicians are primarily healers. Our basic goal is to improve our patients' medical condition and to save lives of our patients and pull them out from an urgent and risky situation. Oftentimes, we are healed by healing others and we see that health care is really just people helping other people in their time of need. It is fundamentally an act of giving and leading, from those of us who are strong and well, to those who are not.

**Educator.**
The role of the doctor as an educator is implicit from the etymology of the word "doctor," which is from the Latin "docere", to teach - a sense of curiosity to discover what is true; how to choose the right above the wrong; how to live and learn each day and teach always how to gain in wisdom and in grace hoping that someday future doctors can make the country a brighter and a better place to live in.

**Advocate/Leader.**
The physician's function is fast becoming social and Preventive , rather than individual and curative- to achieve a greater impact on the diseases that will matter most. With an advocacy on preventive health education, we have established our relevance in our ailing country. We have now recognized the urgent need for a culture change...to heal, to teach, and to lead an ailing nation. As healthcare professionals, we need to own the problem to form part of the solution.

**Executive.**
Physicians are not known to be good managers. We need to train our medical students , residents and fellows the value of management and leadership concepts to be effective in managing clinical problems and leading an organization. Excellence in execution is key to any successful program or plan of action.

**Researcher.**
We physicians, with all our passion for research and discipline in securing the right diagnosis and treatment, should look beyond our traditional role of healthcare providers and take a more active role in the healthcare legislation process and translate our expertise as analytical thinkers and researchers in helping shape our Healthcare system. If we will utilize our talent in research and analytical thinking in our society and culture, it will help shape our lives, destiny, and future. And surely, as it is inevitably plays out in millions of decisions made each day, there is a direct connection between the way we think and the society we get.

***"To preserve and enhance our place in the community and to keep our pact with Hippocrates, physicians may have to treat more than just our patients , but the healthcare system in which we work."***

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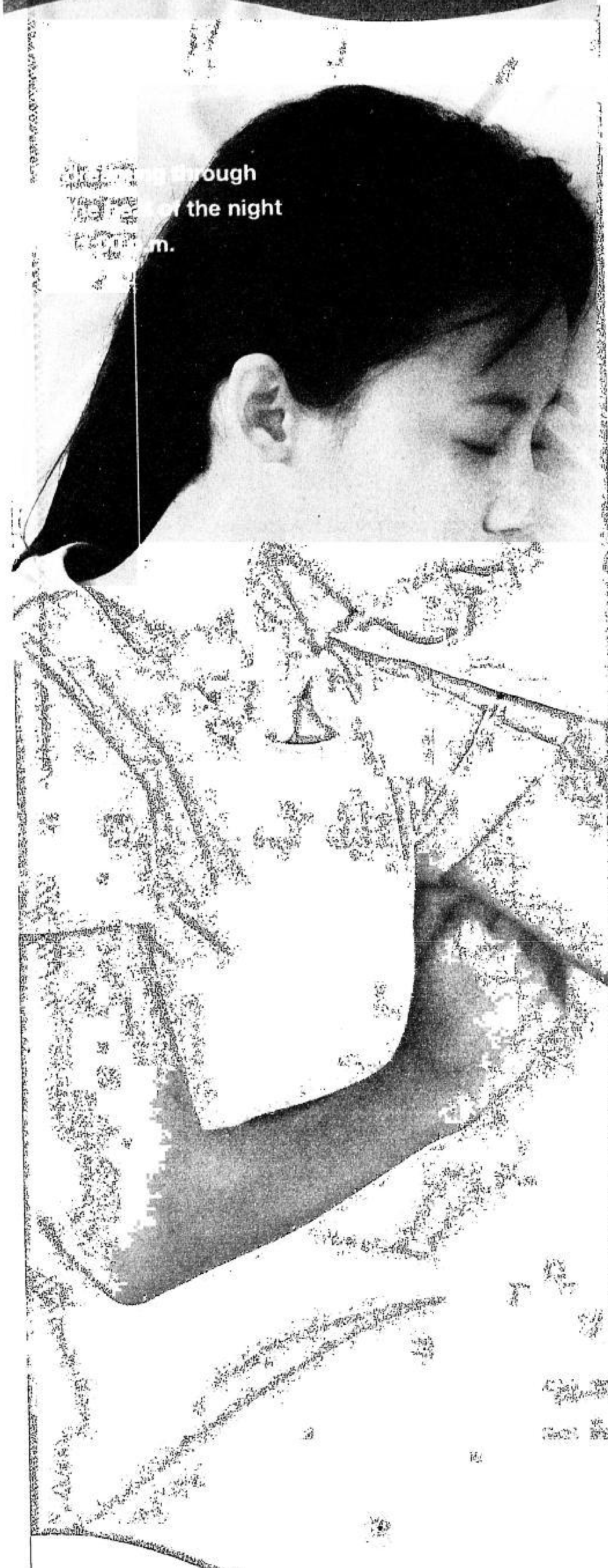
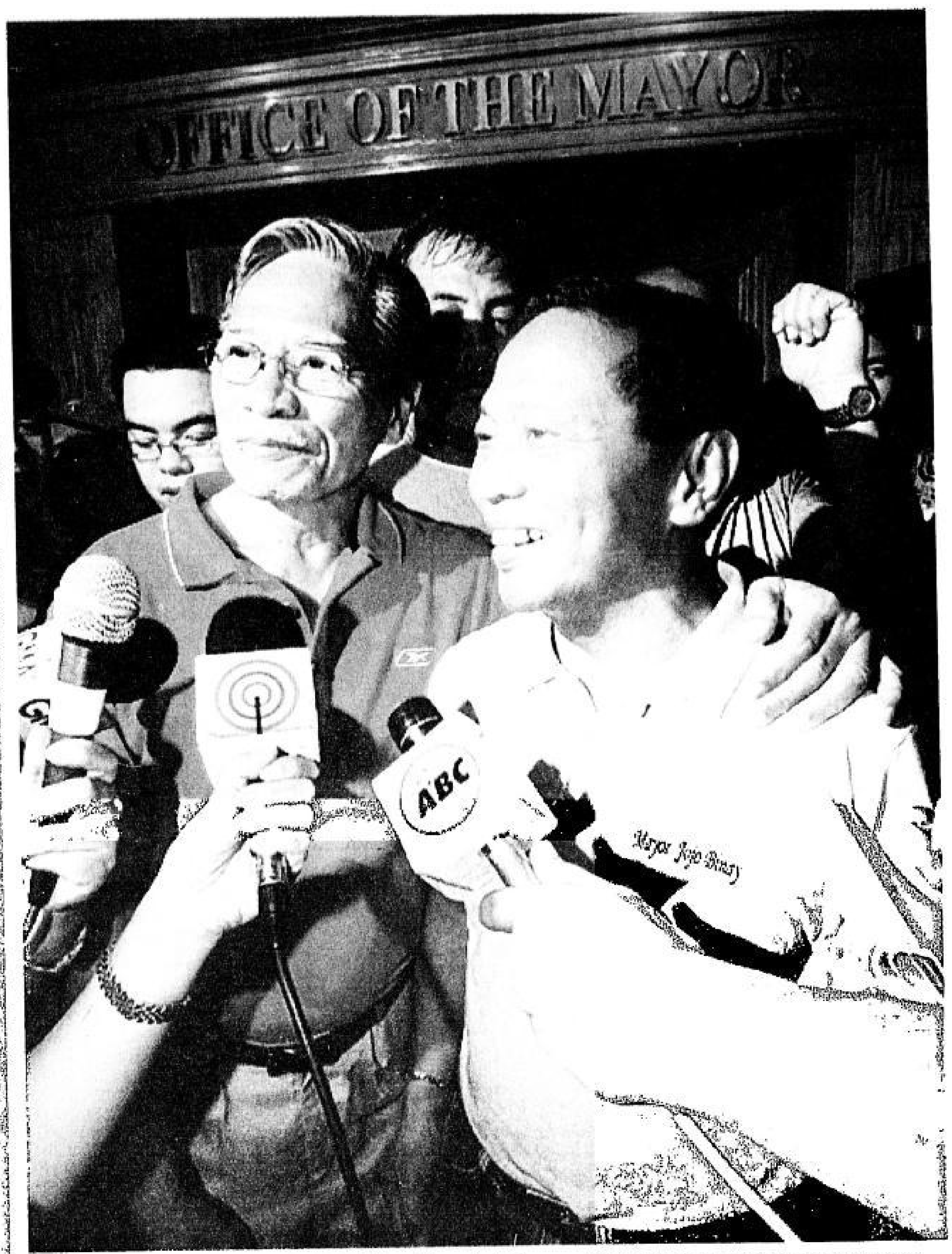
GO AHEAD... SWEAT.



Sweating is natural.

Sweating is the natural response to stop the rise in body temperature. It happens any time of the day -- even while you sleep at night.

Unfortunately, when you sweat, you also lose what's naturally healthy. What you need is a perfect replacement for your lost nutrients, an alternative that has no preservatives or artificial coloring.



TWO FOR THE (BUMPY) ROAD AHEAD. Makati Mayor Jojo Binay as of Friday night, suspended from office for 60 days, manages to put on a happy face as he gets all-out support from his constituents and people like Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo at the Makati City Hall. Ocampo himself was recently released on bail after he was charged by a Leyte judge with 15 counts of murder.

RAFFY LERMA

# Binay: Thank you, GMA

From page A1

son Adel Tamano.

"The Filipino electorate will see this for what it is, and the backlash will only help the opposition cause," Tamano said.

## Let Ombudsman explain

Malacañang, however, sought to distance itself from the new suspension order on Binay—the second in six months involving supposed ghost employees on the city payroll—and wants the Ombudsman to explain the case.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said the matter was "strictly between the Ombudsman and Mayor Binay."

"But the Ombudsman owes it to the public to fully and convincingly explain why they believe they have a strong case against the mayor for allegedly hiring ghost employees and why they have to suspend him now," Bunye said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Malacañang had nothing to do with the new case or the serving of the preventive suspension on Friday night.

He said Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno received a copy of the suspension order from the Ombudsman late on Friday but that Puno's officials were able to locate Binay only late on Friday night.

"The DILG is just executing a lawful order from the Ombudsman," Ermita said on Friday night. "Malacañang does not have to give any instructions [to Puno]."

The renewed effort to remove Binay from City Hall is a reprise of the attempt last October which he was able to foil through a court order.

That case, filed by Binay's known political adversary, Roberto Brillante, also alleged that the mayor and the entire city council maintained ghost employees.

## Gentlemen's agreement

Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus yesterday said he and Binay forged a gentlemen's agreement on Friday that the mayor would vacate City Hall on Monday and Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado would take over as acting mayor.

"We gave assurances that we will not take over City Hall this weekend, and he will voluntarily relinquish the office on Monday," Corpus told reporters at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel, where he joined the President in a convention of security agencies.

However, Corpus said, Binay had been suspended since Friday night when he received the order.

Corpus said he did not expect Binay to renege on their agreement: "Shame on him if he will not honor his word."

The DILG will not use force to remove Binay if, as he did in response to the first suspension order last October, he again barricades himself in his office on Monday, Corpus said.

Anyway, if Binay insists on staying in City Hall, he will no longer be recognized as the mayor of Makati, Corpus said. "His signature will not be honored."

Corpus said it would be the acting mayor who would exercise power in Makati, and he could do this from his current office.

According to Corpus, Binay should not make a fuss about the administrative case because if he wins another term as mayor, the case will be deemed moot: "If he wins, that will erase the administrative liability because that is tantamount to pardon by the electorate."

Corpus also took exception to charges that the new suspension order constituted political harassment of Binay, who is one of the lead convenors of GO.

## 'Undeclared martial law'

But Binay apparently does not intend to go quietly.

"We will not turn our back on this repression ... It's just a few days before the elections and they are tormenting and harassing us," he told his supporters past midnight Friday.

"Thank you very much. I don't know how I can show my heart to you, but you know Jojo Binay—he knows to pay back what he owes. I admire you all," he said, adding:

"In the meantime, accept our gladness that, in just a few minutes, you came here in droves. The people of Makati were not afraid to show their support for real democracy."

Yesterday, Binay said Makati was practically in a state of "undeclared martial law" as purportedly shown by the "illegal" suspension and the Bureau of Internal Revenue's seizure of Makati's assets to recover alleged unpaid taxes.

He also said truckloads of fully armed policemen had been deployed to the city, particularly on major streets and near his home in Barangay San Antonio.

Binay described the deployment of truckloads of policemen from the Southern Police District (SPD) as "overkill."

"Whenever there is conflict in the barangays arising from campaign-related activities, SPD policemen quickly rush to the scene," he said. "These policemen have no business meddling in incidents that should be handled by Makati policemen."

Said GO senatorial candidate Loren Legarda: "The attempt to suspend Mayor Binay as the election campaign period is drawing to a close is a glaring example of political harassment. Worse, the government tried to do it after office hours and during a Friday at that.

"I believe this incident will even strengthen the resolve of Mayor Binay's constituents to deliver him that landslide victory come May 14."

## 101 percent

What started as a tense stand-off late Friday night between policemen and Binay's supporters turned into a political gig, with dancers gyrating to the tune of "Itaktak Mo."

"My 94 percent might turn into 101 percent," Binay quipped in Filipino, referring to his wellspring of votes in the country's primary business district.

The mayor was dressed in a light blue shirt with the name "Jojo Binay" emblazoned on his right chest—a far cry from the military fatigues he wore during his days-long resistance to the suspension order of October 2006.

More than 10 men pulled and shoved to keep the crowd, including members of the media, from coming too close, but Binay kept a calm demeanor and appeared unaffected by the tension.

## Pagcor chair did it

Binay also alleged that Ephraim Genuino, the chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., was behind the new suspension order.

Genuino denied this in a statement issued yesterday.

"In the first place, the suspension order issued by the Ombudsman resulted from anomalies in the City Hall of Makati, Binay's seat of power. How are we connected to that?" Genuino said.

He also said Binay should present the city government's records if he had done nothing wrong.

Two of Genuino's sons, Erwin and Anthony, are running for congressman and councilor in Makati's second district under the administration ticket. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Hershey D. Homol*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

# THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 6, 2007
5th Sunday of Easter

**1st Reading:** **Acts 14:21-27**

End of the first mission.

After proclaiming the gospel in that town and making many disciples, Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra and Iconium and on to Antioch. They were strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain firm in the faith, for they said, "We must go through many trials to enter the Kingdom of God." In each church they appointed elders and, after praying and fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had placed their faith.

Then they traveled through Pisidia, and came to Pamphylia. They preached the Word in Perga and went down to Attalia. From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had first been commended to God's grace for the task they had now completed.

On their arrival they gathered the Church together and told them all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the non-Jews.

**2nd Reading:** **Revelation 21:1-5**

God will wipe every tear.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had passed away and no longer was there any sea. I saw the new Jerusalem, the holy city coming down from God, out of heaven, adorned as a bride prepared for her husband. A loud voice came from the throne, "Here is the dwelling of God among mortals: He will pitch his tent among them and they will be his people; he will be God-with-them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the world that was has passed away."

The One seated on the throne said, "See, I make all things new." And then he said to me, "Write these words because they are sure and true."

**Gospel:** **John 13:31-33, 34-35**

A new commandment: love one another.

When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. God will glorify him, and he will glorify him very soon.

"My children, I am with you for only a little while; you will look for me, but, as I already told the Jews, so now I tell you: where I am going you cannot come. Now I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

**Commentary**

*Paul and Barnabas return to bring reassurance and encouragement to the new churches, warning them of the reality of trials to come. They pray and fast and commend those chosen to be elders. They travel and tell of the good news spreading and the wide open door to the Gentiles. Again we hear/see the vision of John: how the work of Jesus and the work of the Spirit in the Church will one day come to fulfillment—there will be a new heaven and earth, a new Jerusalem come from heaven where God dwells with his people and there will be no suffering, weeping, mourning, or pain; all things will be made new. This is what is happening now in the world by the work and the Word of God in the power of the Spirit.*

*Jesus the night before he dies, tells us, encouraging and reassuring that he will be raised up and glorified (crucified and risen from the dead) and even though he will not be with us (in the flesh) he wants to give us a new commandment: love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other. This is how all will know you for my disciples: your love for one another. This is the new thing that will set in motion the new heavens and earth. It is up to us now to love like Jesus and to encourage one another and to choose new elders as the Church grows and spreads forth.*

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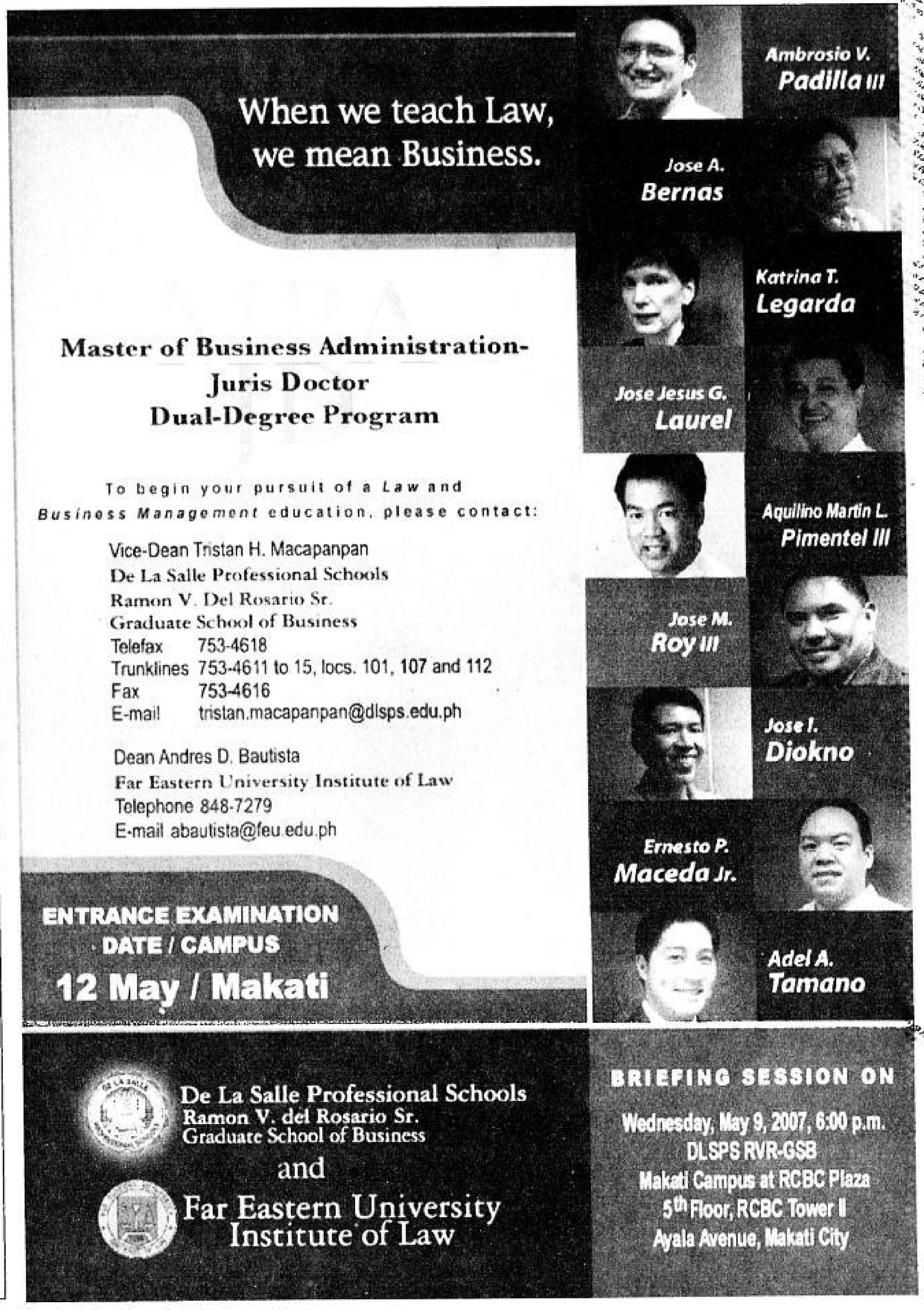
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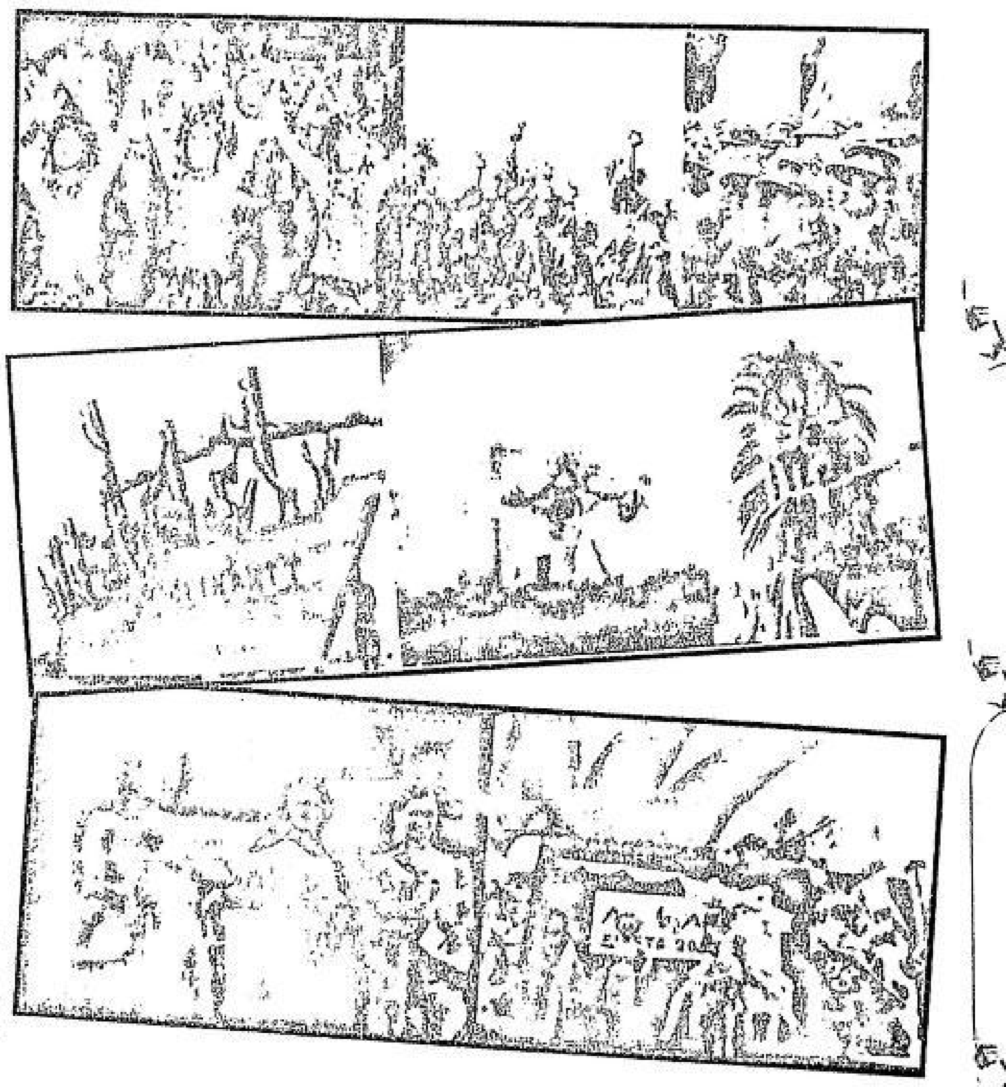

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RUNNERS-UP
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REYNA
JANE DELA CRUZ OF DISPOSORIO FESTIVAL, HAGONOY, BULACAN

1ST RUNNER- UP
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**STILL SELLING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.** In her 80s, Nanay Curing, Senate President Manny Villar's mother, still runs a sari-sari store at BF Resort Village. When her rich and famous son suggested she retire, she scolded him: "If I don't do anything, I will grow weak." ROGER MARGALLO

# Nanay Curing won't let age get in the way of business

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

EVEN AT 83, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR IDLEness for Nanay Curing.

Everyday she is up at 5 a.m. to open her little sari-sari store which looks like any other neighborhood store with sachets of shampoo, soap, coffee, biscuits and other *chitchiria* hanging on its grilled front which has a small rectangular opening to transact business.

When her son suggested that she really didn't have to work anymore, he got a mouthful from her. "And what will I do?" she demanded, insisting that she would grow weak if she just sat around.

Almost every son—even Senate President Manuel Villar—knows better than to argue with his mother.

Of course, Curita Bamba-Villar got her way (although hers is the only sari-sari store in BF Resort Village in Las Piñas that has security guards posted outside and a "yaya" standing by inside to assist her when she takes her midmorning and early afternoon siesta break.)

This is not surprising for a woman who, at barely 18 years old, used to row a *parao* (a small boat with a sail) from Bataan to Tondo, Manila, to sell seafood.

## Bataan native

Born and raised in Orion, Bataan, she was only two months short of graduating from the Normal College when World War II broke out in the 1940s. To help support her family, she boldly set out to sea.

During the Japanese occupation, the seafood trade was an illegal activity that was sometimes punished with death. The Japanese had ordered all seafood turned over to them.

But as luck would have it, the Filipino official whose job it was to prevent this trade fell in love with her.

Fisheries inspector Manuel M. Villar protected the young, feisty Curing during her daring business voyages—and eventually became her husband.

## Buy and sell

She had a keen business sense. She said she did not bring money home to Bataan. Instead, she used the proceeds from the sale of her 50 kilos or so of seafood to buy goods that were in short supply in Bataan—things like cigarettes, sugar and flour.

The danger was always there. She has not forgotten that one time she was unable to bring her goods to Manila herself and three cousins had to bring them. The Japanese arrested them and they were never found.

She said they were told that the three were killed through water torture (water was pumped into their bodies through their mouths until they died). A friend found the *parao* floating in the sea and took it back to Bataan.

After the war, she got a stall in the big wholesale market in Divisoria and continued to sell seafood.

It was there in Divisoria where her former waterways protector Villar stepped up his courtship. He still worked for the Fisheries Bureau and would visit her everyday after the market closed at noon.

## Love wins out

Nanay Curing smiles when she recalls that her parents did not like Villar because he was from the Visayas (Iloilo) and they preferred her to marry another Tagalog like them.

But love prevailed. The two eloped.

It was not until her eldest daughter, Lourdes, came that her parents took her back.

Those were hard times. She had no money to capitalize her seafood store, she said. Few traders would give her credit.

When her husband was offered a year-long scholarship to the United States, Nanay Curing says they were so poor that she had to pawn her sewing machine for P30 just to be able to send him off with some pocket money and a ream of cigarettes for the long sea journey.

It was only after Villar's scholarship abroad that life improved a bit for Nanay Curing. After his return he was appointed director of the agriculture and natural resources office with much higher pay.

But one child came after another until they had nine.

## Seafood supplier

Her husband eventually was able to buy a house in Navotas. She continued her seafood trade and maintained her stall in Divisoria.

Her big break came when young son Manny lent a hand in the marketing aspect. He had asked a classmate, whose family owned William Lines, if his mother could supply their seafood needs.

"They liked my prompt service and ordered meat as well," Nanay Curing said.

Seeing bigger opportunities, she told daughter Lourdes to quit her job and go into vegetable trading. Soon mother and daughter were supplying most of the food needs of William Lines, including eggs. Pretty soon she was supplying produce to Manila Hotel.

The business grew. The Villar daughters eventually took over the trading business.

As many already know, son Manny went to college at the University of the Philippines, got a Masters in Business Administration, set up a successful real estate business, married a banker, later becoming a congressman, a senator, Senate president.

In the '80s, she and her husband, who had retired from the government service, took a much deserved rest and travelled for months.

But after her travels and after moving into her current house, Nanay Curing felt restless. That was when she decided to open the sari-sari store.

Husband Manuel has since passed away. She also lost two sons, both to leukemia.

She says her store sales reach about P5,000 a day with profits amounting to less than 10 percent or some P400. Her *yaya* says that to this day, Nanay Curing does not use a calculator but does the numbers with pen and paper—just as she did during her seafood trading days.

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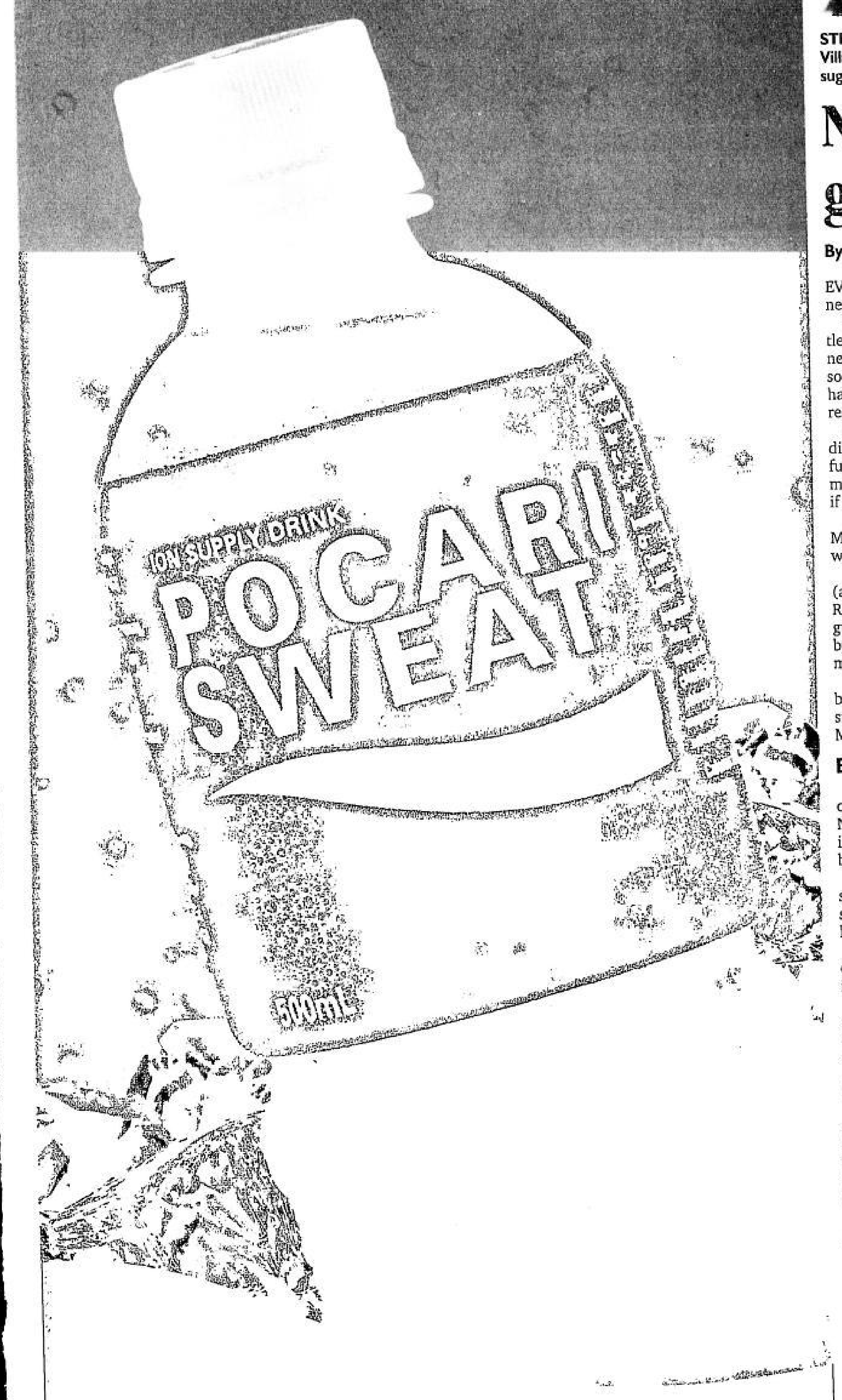

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# Herbal garden alive and well at QC Memorial Circle

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**POL RUBIA** oversees the "Halamanang Pangkabuhayan (Livelihood Garden)," which offers weekend seminars on raising goats, hogs and poultry and the propagation of crops, vegetables and fruit-bearing trees as well as medicinal, decorative and culinary plants.

AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE HERBAL GARDEN AND LIVELIHOOD Center started with the idea of growing medicinal plants in one's own backyard which has since turned into a multi-layered plan of putting up homegrown businesses for ordinary people.

Ideally located at the heart of the Quezon Memorial Circle on Elliptical Road in Quezon City, the Herbal Garden and Livelihood Center—soon to be renamed the "Halamanang Pangkabuhayan (Livelihood Garden)"—jibes well with the vision of Quezon City Parks Development Foundation Inc. (QCPDFI) president Charito Planas of converting parks into venues of both leisure and learning.

Pol Rubia, vice president for operations of Agri-Aqua Network International (AANI) who oversees the venture, says the idea of growing medicinal herbs was the spark plug which stirred the whole project to life.

From the late broadcaster Ernie Baron's "Botica sa Paso," the project took off as alternative medicine became popular, eventually finding its place at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

"Planas developed the herbal garden which started from Baron's 'Botica sa Paso' project. It was only on Jan. 16 that we decided to merge the herbal garden with the livelihood center and it was also then that Planas asked us to take over supervision of the whole project," Rubia said.

Planas explained, "When you say herbal, that's only medicinal. Now you have plants for culinary use, decorative plants and trees. There's also regular weekend seminars on raising fish, goats and pigs."

## Remedy for poverty

She stressed that the project's objective was to provide QMC visitors with a venue to "learn to earn." It also offers an alternative to people who may want to try their hand in the field of agriculture as a remedy to abject poverty.

"What's happening in our country now is people tend to inculcate in their minds that they are poor. The mind is like a ball. Whatever you think bounces back to you. So if you always think that you are poor, that you will be poor for life, you'll be poverty-ridden until you die. So you must have a positive outlook," Planas explained.

She added, "To help uplift the lives of people, give them not bread but something to make bread with."

Planas pointed out that under "Halamanang Pangkabuhayan," they are also experimenting on alternative uses for ordinary plants. "We teach them how to make coffee out of rice and sugar out of coconut; different uses for ordinary things," she said.

The president of the QCPDFI is living proof of the benefits of herbal medicine through the "Botica sa Paso" project. Through her weekly radio program which airs over dzRM on Sundays, she promotes herbal medicine as a natural alternative to artificially-developed drugs.

## Useful list

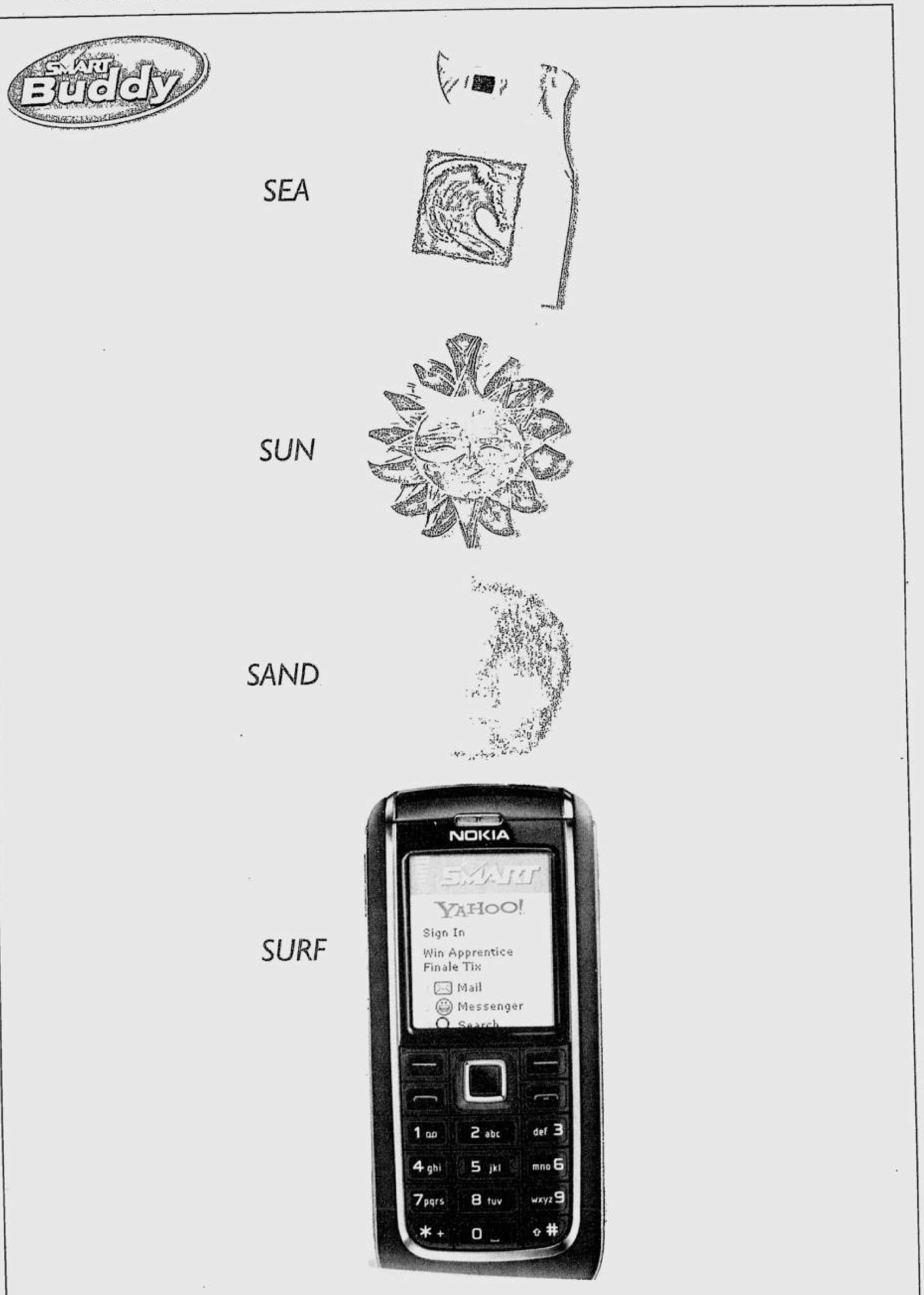
Planas also disseminates a list of herbal plants, their medicinal properties and how to prepare them in treating diseases and other ailments—ranging from colds and cough, headache, fever, flu, diarrhea, stomach ache, rheumatism, asthma, animal bites, abnormal blood pressure to kidney and heart diseases. "I have printed 50,000 copies of the list and one rural bank reprinted it and distributed it to all their depositors. I'm now taking *sambong* for my kidneys aside from *banaba*."

Rubia said the herbal garden project of the QCPDFI and its eventual transformation into a one-stop livelihood center suits AANI's thrust and main objective of agricultural technology transfer. "We saw the necessity of equipping farmers with modern technology when we started going around through our agri-kapihan seminars on the invitation of local officials," he explained.

The knowledge that the country is an "organically agricultural country" has prompted AANI to not only concentrate on educating farmers but also other people interested in venturing into agriculture on a small scale.

"We always advise those who participate in our seminars to know what agricultural or aqua-culture field they want to enter to ensure that they will enjoy what they are doing," he said, pointing out that most successful farmers are hobbyists or weekend farmers rather than agricultural graduates.

"Before, it was embarrassing to admit to being a farmer. Now, lawyers and businessmen are proud to be working on their farms. Instead of going to golf courses, they farm. There is more enjoyment. It's cheaper and healthier," Rubia said.



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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contr etter life for their families. These are their stories.

# She plays sound of music in a sleepy town in Brunei

**WITH HER TWO Dutch students in piano and voice: Bruno and Julia Weisser in Kuala Belait**

She accepted the job to teach music in Kuala Belait to earn more and return home after a few years. But now, she wants her family to live with her in this oil-rich country

**By Margaux C. Ortiz**

WHEN YOUNG MUSIC teacher Maria Cecilia Algery-Rasonable first arrived in the quiet town of Kuala Belait in Brunei, she was struck by a strange sight.

"That was the first time I saw a burning sky!" Rasonable said in an interview with the INQUIRER, recalling how amazed she was at what she saw.

Later, she learned that the fire had something to do with the heat and the process of extracting oil and gas, Kuala Belait's main industry.

"That was the first thing I noticed here, apart from the very dry soil," Rasonable said.

She was also surprised at how peaceful the city was, contrary to what she had expected when she left the Philippines two years ago.

"I thought I would see in Brunei what I had seen in movies showing foreign cities," Rasonable said, laughing. "But the high-rise buildings, the busy shopping malls and the noisy streets were missing from Kuala Belait."

However, like any other Filipino in any part of the globe, Rasonable was able to adjust to her surroundings quickly. And it helped that she lived with other Filipinos who also work as music teachers in the same school that employed her.

"I always thought that I would be involved in music, either performing as a musician or teaching it to others," Rasonable said. "But never in my wildest dreams did I think I would reach Brunei to do that."

## Family of musicians

Born to a family of musicians, this Bicol native learned to love music at a very young age.

When her unexpected decision to take up mass communication in faraway Manila was disapproved by her father, Rasonable ended up with a music degree from Sta. Isabel University in Naga City.

"Despite having wanted to take up another course when I was in my senior year in high school, I never regretted choosing another career path—though I guess it was more expected, with my family background and all," she said with a smile.

Even when she was still in college, Rasonable's exceptional musical talents enabled her to snag a job at the provincial capitol of Camarines Sur. She became the lead singer of the LRV string ensemble under the Bicol Heritage Foundation.

While she was singing with the LRV string ensemble, Rasonable also taught at the Colegio del Santo Rosario in Naga City as a music teacher.

Rasonable's enthusiasm and dedication in teaching music to elementary and high school students did not escape the attention of the school staff. A subsequent—and unexpected—invitation by one of the school nuns to work abroad was to change her life forever, she said.

"I immediately considered accepting the job, thinking that it would give me a chance to rest from performing but also let me continue teaching, which I love doing so much," Rasonable said.

On April 21, 2005, Rasonable and another colleague set off for Kuala Belait, where she was to teach voice, violin and piano at the Rhythmic Arts music school. "I was, of course, sad and scared, but also very excited at the same time," she said. The music teacher expected to be "culture-shocked" when her prospective employer warned her to avoid wearing revealing clothes in Brunei. "In a country as hot as theirs, I half expected to see people in shorts and *sandos* walking in the streets," she said.

But she also pointed out that adjustment was not so hard with the presence of a large foreign population in Kuala Belait—an amalgam of Australian, Dutch, British, Indian and Filipino influences blending with the local culture.

Rasonable said that working with other Filipino teachers in Rhythmic Arts (owned by a fellow Bicolana, Aileen Ravalo) helped her cope with her homesickness.

## Interaction with locals

"We all live in a house just across our school," she said, explaining that the proximity likewise helped them survive the painful heat both coming from the sun and emanating from the ground.

"Here in Brunei, all the homes are air-conditioned. It is not a luxury here, unlike in the Philippines, but a necessity," she said.

From Mondays to Thursdays, Rasonable and three other colleagues teach music lessons to mostly children of expatriates. She said their schedules were packed in the afternoons and early evenings because their students went to regular schools in the mornings.

"My students' age range from 5 to 50, but most of them are from seven to 12 years old," she said.

It is this exposure to children from other cultures that limit Rasonable's interaction with the actual locals themselves.

"But the times I've met and talked with some of the locals have been pleasant experiences," she said, adding amusedly that most of the time she envies them for their comfortable lives.

Rasonable said that Brunei citizens received many privileges from their Sultan including their houses, cars and even their laptops.

"I always marvel at how rich this country is compared to ours," she said. "Here you just have to work and save, because the cost of living is so low."

She said there were no taxes in Brunei, which enabled everyone to buy practically anything they needed. With just even a dollar, she said, one could already have his fill in a decent restaurant.

She also said that her monthly salary range of P32,000 to P50,000 in Brunei has greatly helped her family back home, especially her 4-year-old child, Daniel.

"I used to earn only P5,000-P10,000 a month back home as a private school teacher," she recalled.

On Sundays, Rasonable explores the town on foot with her colleagues. She has become used to the sleepy town, she said, which is an hour and a half away from the busier capital city of Bandar Seri Begawan.

## Plenty of Filipinos

The Filipino community, Rasonable noted, is not as active in this Brunei town as it is in other foreign countries.

"There are plenty of Filipinos here, mostly working as domestic helpers, construction workers and waitresses," Rasonable said.

Most of the store helpers and salesladies in the town are also Filipinos, she said. But their interactions are limited to simple "hellos."

But still, she is grateful for their presence. "It still gives me comfort that there are people here who could speak the same language as I do."

She added that the Catholic chapels in Kuala Belait are usually filled with her own countrymen on Sundays.

"We try to participate in the few activities we have as a community here, like singing during the Philippine Independence Day celebrations," Rasonable said.

Once or twice a month, the young teacher and her friends at Rhythmic Arts travel to nearby Malaysia to unwind and forget their loneliness.

"Traveling helps us take our minds off our homesickness for a while," she disclosed, adding that she regularly spends a lot in cell phone calls just to talk to her family back home.

But other than that, Rasonable thinks that she can work in Brunei for a long time.

"The pay is worth the work. And if there's a way to take my family here to live with me, that would be perfect!" she added.

**MARIA CECILIA ALGERY-RASONABLE: "I always thought that I'd be in music, but I never thought I would reach Brunei to do that."**

---

# Pinay restaurateur finally finds home in Kuala Lumpur

**By Cora Llamas**
*Contributor*

DURING HER FIRST STRUGGLING years in Kuala Lumpur, mopping floors, washing dishes and serving hot Chinese noodles from one small eatery to another, Jane Manalo-Tan straddled two worlds where she was not totally welcome.

There was the Filipino family she left behind in Ipil in Zamboanga, namely four children from a previous marriage who were being raised by her in-laws. The distance and time spent away from them were already hurting her like hell, and making it worse was the nameless unnerving feeling that somehow the letters and small gifts of money that she had been sending were not reaching the right parties.

Then there was the Chinese mother-in-law of her compassionate and gentle partner, Tan Chee Hang, in Malaysia. Suspecting the Filipina of ignoble intentions against her son, the older lady frankly asked Manalo (then not yet a Tan) to name her price—then leave him alone. Manalo remembers answering back, mustering her dignity intact, "I don't need your money. I will soon find a job. Only a word from your son can send me back to the Philippines."

Ironically, landing a husband was the farthest thing that Manalo-Tan had in mind when she left for Malaysia in 1994, after a three-year stint as a domestic helper in Sabah from 1987-1990. She was actually anxious to get away from her first husband who, she intimated, would resort to physical abuse every time he was drunk. Her escape was accomplished on a pretext that she was visiting her mother in Zamboanga for three days; what Manalo-Tan left out was that her old lady would be giving her the P3,000 she needed to leave for Malaysia and a possibility of work and a better life.

## Bridging 2 worlds

After 13 years, Manalo-Tan has happily bridged those two worlds, and now manages the Shui Kee Restaurant situated in Jalan Alor, a tiny strip of diners that has become a food haven for tourists who wish to sample exotic and homegrown cuisine. She runs the multicultural staff of 11—composed of Thais, Indians and Malaysians—with her husband. Tan's mother has become kinder to her after their marriage and the birth of her two sons, now ages 12 and 3.

Her children from her first husband have settled with their own families in Ipil and Calabarzon. A couple of them had visited her in Malaysia and one even tried working there as a welder before deciding that homesickness was a price he could not pay for future prosperity. Still, those few months became a long-awaited and hard-earned vindication for Manalo-Tan whose absence at home made her the subject of idle gossip. That she slept around with other men was one cruel and unfounded accusation.

Manalo-Tan's voice still breaks when she recounts her son's words before returning home to the Philippines: "'Mom, now I understand you. You're suffering here for us, I see it with my own eyes.'"

Sleepless nights were the norm for Manalo-Tan and her husband when they were first starting to move up. The restaurant was open from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. The 14 eight-seater round tables that spilled from the cozy interiors to the street sidewalks were easily and quickly filled by American, German, Italian and African visitors who wanted to taste their famous barbecues and neatly sliced and sauced stingray. The Tans would have only a few hours to clean, shop in the market for supplies, cook and prepare for the customers until dawn when they would catch a few hours of sleep.

Manalo-Tan says that it's her husband Tan Chee Hang who is the culinary whiz. Similar to the American rite of passage, Malaysians are encouraged to leave their homes to build their own lives independently once they reach the age of 18. Tan Chee Hang worked in the different restaurants and developed a cooking thumb that could concoct the most popular Chinese and Malaysian delicacies. Manalo-Tan learned her trade from watching him and adding his own spin.

## Support for four kids

Like all OFWs, Manalo-Tan consistently sends financial support to the four children whose growth, education and development she could not witness first-hand. Neither did she keep her first family secret from Tan Chee Hang when he started courting her. "I already have four children back in the Philippines who are all in school. Can you take that?" she remembered telling him. Tan Chee Hang assured her it was not a problem—and would even hand her additional funds out of his own pocket.

These days, Manalo-Tan and her spouse do not have to keep the same long hours, given a greater number of staff and a mother-in-law who's all too willing to take care of her children. The family lives in a comfortable home (which incurs monthly dues to the bank) and the boys go to good schools. Occasionally, Manalo-Tan indulges her fondness for jewelry and, with Tan Chee Hang, plays the slot machines in Macau.

## One more dream

The days when she bunked in a hut built of "*papag* and *kahoy*" are memories that remain a powerful remembrance. Manalo-Tan is the first to acknowledge her good fortune, "Before, I would ask myself when I would get enough money and get a huge house. When would I ever get to live in those? When I see jewelry on other people, I would ask myself when I'd get to wear those as well. With God's mercy, all of those came to me."

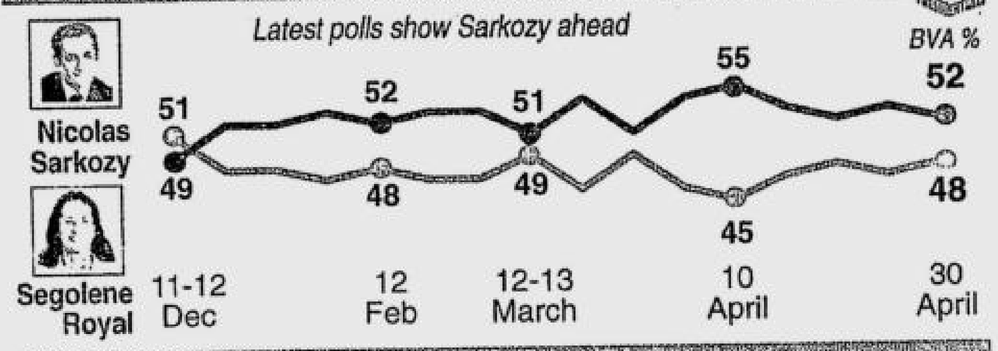
One more dream remains—and that is to revisit her Philippine-based family again and share with them the blessings she has received. Her last visit to the country was in 2002. Maybe this time around, the arms that will welcome her, aside from her children, will be warmer and more open.

RESTORAN HUP KEE
合記
Carlsberg

**JANE MANALO-TAN with friends just outside her restaurant in Malaysia**

# First votes cast as France chooses president

## French presidential vote



Polls following head-to-head debate

| | Nicolas Sarkozy | Segolene Royal |
|---|---|---|
| Ifop, CSA | 53% | 47% |
| Ipsos | 54% | 46% |
| Sofres | 54.5% | 45.5% |

AFP 040507

PARIS—THE FIRST VOTES WERE TO be cast Saturday for rival candidates Nicolas Sarkozy and Segolene Royal, as citizens in France's overseas territories start the ball rolling in the country's hardest-fought presidential election in years.

Voters in French Guiana, the Caribbean islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe and the tiny archipelago of Saint Pierre and Miquelon off Canada's coast are going to the polls a day early in order to avoid problems caused by the time difference.

In mainland France official campaigning ended Friday at midnight, with Saturday a day for reflection with family and friends ahead of Sunday's vote.

The last opinion polls before a midnight ban confirmed a lead for Nicolas Sarkozy, the 52-year-old right-winger who has promised a radical agenda of tax cuts and work incentives, over his Socialist party (PS) rival Segolene Royal, 53.

The two opponents came first and second in the April 22 multi-candidate round of the election with 31.2 percent of the vote for Sarkozy and 25.9 percent for Royal.

The second round campaign has focussed on winning the 6.8 million voters—18.6 percent of the vote—who chose the defeated centrist Francois Bayrou in round one.

Holding out the possibility of a future alliance with the left, Bayrou met Royal for policy discussions a week ago and later said that he would personally not vote for Sarkozy. But it was far from clear if his supporters would follow his advice.

A key moment of the campaign was Wednesday's televised debate between Sarkozy and Royal, which was watched by more than 20 million viewers.

Royal showed an unexpectedly aggressive streak in the debate—at one point accusing Sarkozy of "political immorality" for his policies on the handicapped. Her attacks won high praise from supporters, but polls subsequently showed most voters found Sarkozy the more convincing. With the campaign drawing to a close, Royal launched her strongest personal assault on Sarkozy Friday, saying his election would provoke violence in the high-immigration suburbs that were the center of the 2005 riots.

Referring to his "dangerous candidacy," Royal said she had a "responsibility to issue an alert over the risks … regarding the violence and brutalities that will be triggered across the country. Everyone knows it but no one says it. It is a kind of taboo."

Royal was immediately rebuked by Sarkozy's campaign headquarters, which described her remarks as "unacceptable and irresponsible." *AFP*

# Beating global warming costs little, says UN

BANGKOK—HUMANS MUST MAKE SWEEPing cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in the next 50 years to keep global warming in check, but it need cost only a tiny fraction of world economic output, a major UN report said on Friday.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said keeping the temperature rise within 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 F) would cost only 0.12 percent of annual gross domestic product.

"It's a low premium to pay to reduce the risk of major climate damage," Bill Hare, a Greenpeace adviser who coauthored the report told Reuters after marathon talks that ran over their four-day schedule to finalize the document.

The report "shows that it's economically and technically feasible to make deep emission reductions sufficient to limit warming to 2 degrees," he said.

To keep within that limit, which scientists and the European Union say is needed to stave off disastrous climate changes, carbon dioxide emissions need to fall 50 to 85 percent by 2050, said the report, the third in a series.

However, technological advances, particularly in more efficient energy use and production, meant such targets were within reach, it said.

It stressed the use of nuclear, solar and wind power, more energy-efficient buildings and lighting, as well as capturing and storing carbon dioxide spewed from coal-fired power stations and oil and gas rigs.

But a US environmental official rejected some options detailed in the report for cutting emissions as too costly. *Reuters*

## WORLDBRIEFS

### India explosion kills 15

NEW DELHI—At least 15 workers were feared killed in an explosion Saturday at a gelatin manufacturing plant in western India, a news report said. The blast near Nasik city was so powerful that a three-floor building inside the factory complex collapsed, the Press Trust of India news agency said quoting unnamed police officials. The explosion occurred early Saturday, when there were about 20 workers inside the factory that operates round the clock through three shifts, the PTI report said. Police have so far recovered two dead bodies from the debris, while two injured workers were rescued and taken to a nearby hospital for treatment, it said. *AP*

### Roller coaster accident in Japan

TOKYO—A roller coaster traveling up to 75 km per hour hit a guardrail at an amusement park in western Japan on Saturday, killing one person and injuring 21 others, officials said. Osaka police official Kaoru Tanaka said a woman was killed. Two people suffered serious injuries, Kyodo News agency reported. An axle on one of the six cars broke causing the accident at Expoland in Osaka, 408 km west of Tokyo, Kyodo reported. It happened amid Japan's "Golden Week" holiday, when many families pack amusement parks and other tourist sites. The park was closed following the accident, according to park official Kazuhiro Shiba. *AP*

### 22 dead as Haitian boat sinks

MIAMI—At least 22 people died and dozens more were missing after a sailboat packed with Haitian migrants capsized on Friday in shark-infested waters while being towed by a police boat, the US Coast Guard reported. Several of the bodies reportedly appeared to have been chewed up by sharks. "Those are the reports provided by Turks and Caicos police," the force which was towing the boat, said US Coast Guard (USCG) spokesperson Luis Diaz. The waters off the Atlantic archipelago are teeming with sharks. A total of 73 people were rescued and 22 bodies were spotted after the boat capsized early Friday about 800 meters off Providenciales, one of the Turks and Caicos islands. *AFP*

### Ukraine rivals agree on early polls

KIEV—Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych agreed Friday to hold early parliamentary elections, signaling an end to a bitter power struggle in the ex-Soviet republic. "Today we reached agreement in principle on holding early elections," Yushchenko said after meeting with Yanukovych in Kiev, the president's office said in a statement. Ukraine has been locked in crisis since April 2 after the Russian-backed Yanukovych defied an order from pro-Western Yushchenko to dissolve parliament and hold early elections. No date was announced for elections. *AFP*

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# The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

# Kenyan plane with 115 people on board crashes

NAIROBI—A KENYA AIRWAYS AIRLINER WITH 115 people on board crashed Saturday after taking off from Douala airport in Cameroon on a flight to Nairobi, an aviation official said.

"The plane has crashed," the official with the Kenyan Civil Aviation Authority, who asked not to be named, told AFP.

A top government official told AFP: "We have located the plane … and we cannot talk about it." The plane, a Boeing 737-800 carrying 106 passengers, eight crew members and a flight engineer, was due to land in Nairobi on Saturday at 6:15 a.m.

Air traffic controllers picked up a distress signal from the missing Kenya Airways airliner just after it took off from Douala airport in Cameroon, an aviation source said.

The signal was picked up by satellite at 2 a.m, a source close to the Agency for the Safety of Aerial Navigation in Africa told AFP.

Two Cameroonian army helicopters on Saturday began searching a wide area south of the line between Douala and the capital Yaounde, 250 kilometers to the east, to try to locate the aircraft.

Cameroonian authorities have set up two emergency centers, one in Yaounde and the other in Douala, to coordinate search operations.

Flight KQ 507 was flying from Abdijan in Ivory Coast to Nairobi via Douala, in Cameroon.

The chief executive officer for Kenya Airways, Titus Naikuni, earlier told a news conference in Nairobi that the aircraft had failed to land.

"The last message from the aircraft was received at the control tower (in Doula) immediately after take off. After, the tower lost contact with the aircraft. So far, no one has been able to establish contact," Naikuni said. *AFP*

# Paris Hilton gets 45-day jail term

**HOTEL heiress Paris Hilton leaves the Los Angeles Municipal Court on May 4.** REUTERS

LOS ANGELES—A JUDGE SENTENCED a shocked and tearful Paris Hilton to 45 days in jail on Friday, ruling that the hotel heiress violated her probation for a previous traffic offense by knowingly driving without a valid license.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Sauer rejected Hilton's defense that she didn't realize her license was suspended and ordered the 26-year-old socialite to report to a county detention facility on June 5.

Hilton wept and her mother, Kathy, yelled at the prosecutor, "You're pathetic," as the packed courtroom cleared.

The stunning decision capped a two-hour hearing in which prosecutors argued that Hilton was thumbing her nose at the court and seeking to be placed above the law, while defense lawyers said she was being singled out for harsh treatment because of her celebrity.

Taking the witness stand in her own defense, the star of the reality TV show "The Simple Life" testified that she was unaware her driving privileges had been completely suspended at the time police stopped her and impounded her car on Feb. 27.

Hilton said her publicist, Elliot Mintz, had told her she was permitted to drive for work-related reasons after the first 30 days of her license suspension late last November, and that she relied on what he had said.

But the judge said he did not believe Hilton, pointing to a notice she had received from a police officer, and had signed, during another traffic stop in January.

He said Hilton had "completely ignored" that notice, which she had carried in her glove box for weeks, and another license suspension notice sent to her office address by the Department of Motor Vehicles that Hilton said she never saw.

"In my opinion, there's not doubt that she knew that her license had been suspended," the judge said. "She doesn't look at her mail, her personal assistant never goes through it either … I think she just wanted to disregard everything that was said and continued to drive no matter what." *Reuters*

## Fossilized remains of dinosaur found

BUENOS AIRES—PALEONTOLOGISTS unearthed a flesh-eating dinosaur some 150-million-years-old in southern Argentina with all its joints in place, the first time such a beast has been dug up so intact, one of the finders told AFP on Friday.

The seven-meter (23-foot) tall, two-legged dinosaur, dubbed the Condorraptor, was found fossilized with parts of its jaw and head showing in rock near the village of Cerro Condor in Patagonia, at a site where paleontologists had been working for five years.

"It is an unprecedented discovery. It is the first time in the world that a carnivorous dinosaur of the Middle Jurassic period has been found fully jointed," said Pablo Puerta, a paleontologist at the Egidio Feruglio museum in the town of Trelew. *AFP*

# Allies threaten to quit Olmert's government

JERUSALEM—EHUD OLMERT'S PROSPECTS of remaining Israel's prime minister faced a new threat on Friday as coalition allies pushed for their party to quit his government in a move that could trigger a snap election.

But after 100,000 or more protesters packed the main square in Tel Aviv on Thursday evening to demand that he go, Olmert's aides again insisted he would stay on to fix grave failings identified by an official inquiry that delivered a withering verdict this week on his handling of last year's Lebanon war.

With his own foreign minister calling for his resignation, many see Olmert's reprieve as temporary—further reports due from the Winograd Commission's inquiry in the coming weeks as well as challenges from within his own, centrist Kadima party and its Labor coalition allies are all hurdles he must face.

Labor is in the midst of its own power struggle ahead of a leadership election on May 28 that seems likely to unseat Amir Peretz, who as defense minister shared much of the blame with Olmert for failures in the war against Hezbollah last summer.

Several prominent Labor figures have called for a shake up in government and, if a new coalition deal cannot be struck, new elections.

"We will make an effort to build a new coalition and a new government. If we won't be able to do so, we will have to have early elections," Labor lawmaker Ophir Pines-Paz told Reuters.

"It is not the best option but it's a better option than to stay with the present government."

Olmert's spokesperson, Miri Eisin, said the prime minister had no intention of giving way, despite the vocal protests: "The best way to face the challenges, and for the better of Israel, is for the prime minister to stay in his position." *Reuters*

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**BAUTISTA:** Betting favorite

# Bautista set to go boom vs Medina

**MEDINA:** Also undefeated

## Fireworks explode during weigh-in

**AJ BANAL'S** also ready to shock the world. DONG SECUYA/CONTRIBUTOR

By Salven L. Lagumbay
*Contributor*

LAS VEGAS—UNDEFEATED Filipino boxing sensation Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista tests his worth as a future world beater when he takes on a similarly unscathed Argentinian Sergio Manuel Medina in a 12-round clash at the MGM Grand Garden here Saturday (Sunday in Manila).

The bout, one of the three in the pay-per-view telecast of "The World Awaits" card headlined by the Oscar De La Hoya-Floyd Mayweather Jr. world title bout (*see related story on A30*), will reward the winner a crack at the World Boxing Organization super bantam champ Daniel Ponce De Leon.

The power-punching Boholano (22-0) is heavily favored over the busy-moving Argentine (28-0). Bautista's 17 abbreviated wins translate to a 77 percent knockout ratio while Medina's 16 KOs represent only a 57 percent knockout rate.

At the MGM Sportsbook, Bautista's status was solidified further as he moved from a minus 200 favorite to a minus 330 while Medina was tabbed a plus 260 underdog.

This means a $300 bet on the 20-year-old Filipino will win only $100 while a $100 wager on De Leon will earn $260.

At yesterday's weigh-in supervised by the Nevada State Athletic Commission, Bautista and Medina, nicknamed "Rocky," both easily made the 122-lb weight limit then almost came to blows.

### 'Bazooka' battles Mexican

Another Filipino, AJ "Bazooka" Banal, will fight Mexico's Juan Alberto Rosas in a 10-round junior bantamweight clash, but the fight is not part of the televised portion of the event, according to ABS-CBN.

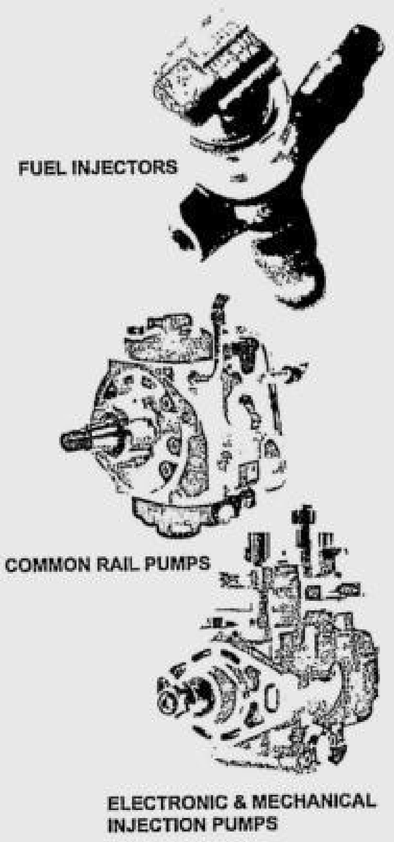
Banal, an 18-year-old southpaw seeking his 13th win against a draw, tipped the scales at 115, while his opponent came in at 112.

Medina made faces at Bautista during the weigh-in and the Filipino responded by pushing his rival. Cooler heads immediately intervened to prevent matters from getting worse.

The little commotion happened after the uneventful De la Hoya-Mayweather weigh-in in front of 7,000 fans.

Both Bautista and Medina will be wearing Cleto Reyes gloves, the so-called "puncher's gloves" that is perceived to give the hard-hitting Bautista an advantage.

Bautista is fighting for the fifth time in the US while this outing is the first for Medina outside of his country.



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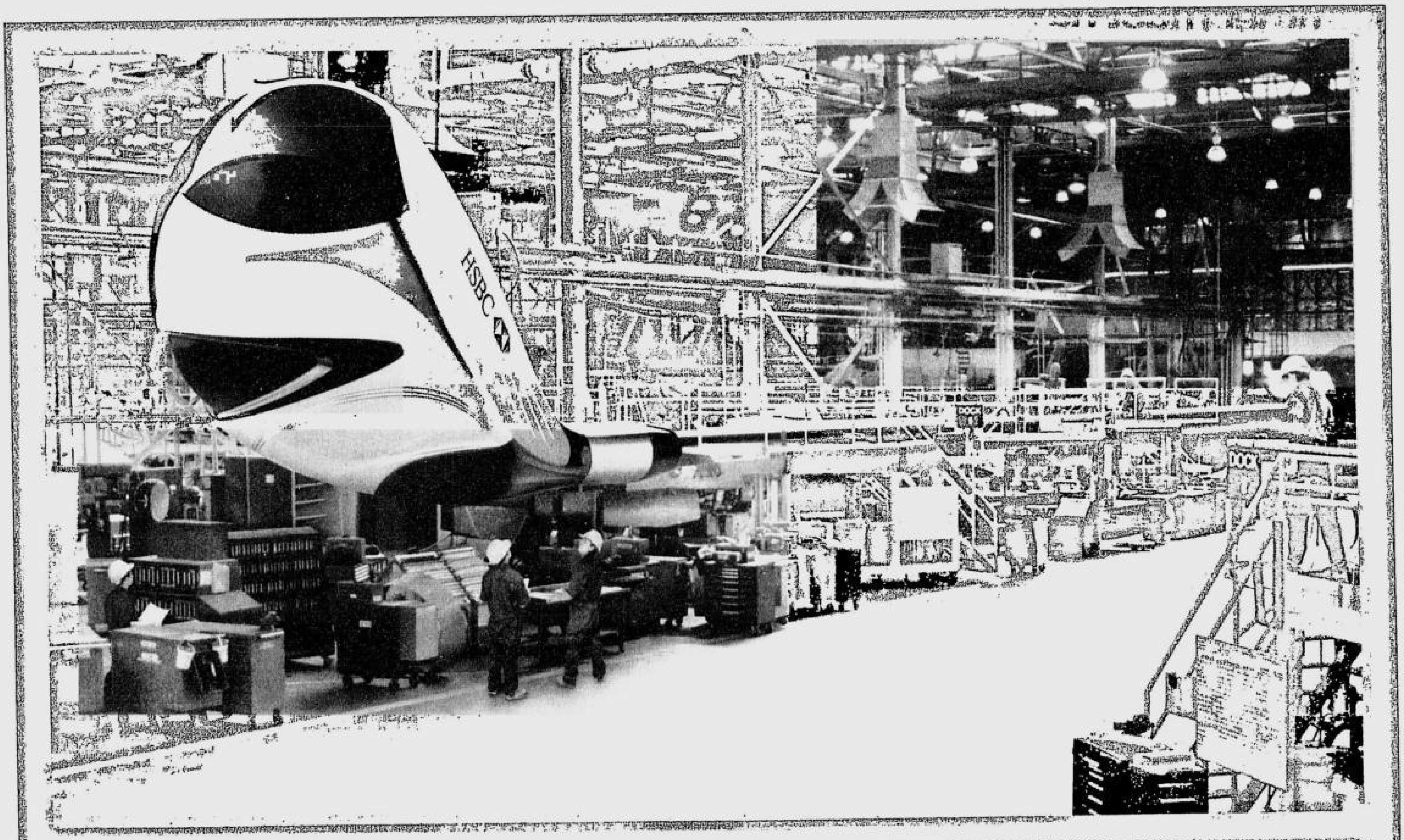

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# Briton takes right road, tops Subic triathlon

**WELLINGTON:** Government employee now triathlon champion.

By Jasmine W. Payo

SUBIC—JUST THREE MONTHS AGO, CHRISTINE Wellington found herself at the crossroads of her career. Luckily, the 30-year-old triathlete chose the right path.

Wellington, a newly turned pro from Great Britain, banked on her strong performance on the bike leg to capture the elite female title in the 13th Subic Bay International Triathlon here yesterday at the Subic Bay Freeport.

Enduring the morning heat, Wellington completed the hilly bike course more than five minutes ahead of the pack and went on to rule the 1.5K swim-40K bike-10K run event in two hours, three minutes and 41 seconds.

It was a satisfying triumph for Wellington, who found herself needing to choose between being a full time athlete or a government employee.

"I've been working and training at the same time, but I thought the only way I can reach the heights that I want is to race full time," said Wellington, who recently quit as a member of the British government's international development policy body.

"On the bike (leg), I just decided to go and bike as hard as I could. The hill is my strongest point."

Nakashima Chie, a Japanese telephone operator, finished second over four minutes behind Wellington in 2:08:39.

The 23-year-old Chie, ranked 92 in the world, topped the swim leg in 16 minutes and 58 seconds, before the fifth-running Wellington made up for lost ground in the bike race.

Alee Sharp of Australia came off a major injury to complete her first race in eight months for a third-best time of 2:14:11.

"I shattered my collarbone in a race in Canada so I had no expectations," noted Sharp. "Whatever comes is just a bonus. I'm happy with the race, but I'm not contented."

Mimi Lucas, the best Filipino finisher at seventh, came in 24 minutes behind Wellington at 2:27:49.

"I would have wanted more time to train, but I think I still have a good chance of joining the SEA Games," said Lucas, who also came in second in the under-23 age category.

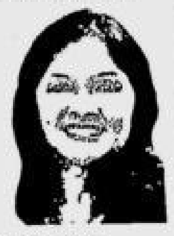
Fellow national team member Lea Coline Langit was two minutes behind the 17-year-old Lucas while placing eighth at 2:29:03.

The event was the second of three qualifying races for the national team hopefuls for the Thailand SEAG this December.

Top local bet Sandra Araullo, however, failed to finish the race. After keeping pace with Lucas and Langit, the 2005 SEAG silver medalist dropped out after suffering a hamstring injury.

# Narvasa new NCAA commish

## IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

IF IT HAD BEEN anybody else who made the offer, Chito Narvasa would have probably turned it down outright.

But it was Jose (Tito Chit) Baltazar who had presented this year's NCAA commissionership to the former PBA coach, and so Chito had to stop and think long and hard.

Coming from a close family friend who believed he is the right person for the job, being a srict disciplinarian and a no-nonsense man, Chito had to consider the offer very seriously.

Even if he thinks he has so much work in his hands and might not have time for it.

The Baltazar family owns the Jose Rizal University, one of the NCAA's member teams, which is this year's host.

* * *

**Chito, who is currently head of the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines (BCAP), is actually a product of the NCAA.**

**He played three seasons for the Ateneo junior basketball team and another four for the Eagles while the school was still a member of the NCAA. Ateneo then moved to the UAAP in 1979, a year after Chito's last season.**

**His junior team won one title while his senior squad captured the NCAA championship twice.**

**In essence, Chito is a product of the NCAA, which he is about to serve when his appointment becomes official since he has decided to accept Tito Chit's offer.**

* * *

One of three candidates the PBA considered as commissioner back in 2002, Chito succeeds last year's commissioner Emilio "Jun" Bernardino, who died of a heart attack last April.

His formal appointment is expected to be announced this coming week.

Meanwhile, on the UAAP side, a report has it that the choice as Chito's UAAP counterpart has been narrowed down to two former University of Santo Tomas alumni, four-peat champion coach Aric Del Rosario and Ed Cordero. One of the two will replace Elmer Yanga who served the league last year. UST, the 2006 champion, is hosting this year's UAAP.

* * *

**Another appointment expected to be announced next week is that of Patrick "Pato" Gregorio as BAP-SBP executive director.**

**The selection and nomination committee headed by Director Ely Capacio meets tomorrow, May 7, "to pre-select and recommend," according to Ely, from among the short list of nominees which includes JunJun Capistrano, who was recommended by Hapee team owner Cecilio Pedro according to BAP-SBP chairman Ricky Vargas, Ricky Palou, Pedro Alfaro from Zamboanga and Pato who was nominated by no less than the BAP-SBP president himself, Manny V. Pangilinan.**

* * *

From what I know, only two candidates have been seriously considered for the coveted position: Jun Bernardino and Gregorio.

Jun and Pato are both products of the University of the Philippines, and, few people know this, are compadres too.

Jun is the ninong of one of Pato's kids.

"He's a very close family friend," said Pato. "He used to give us tickets to the PBA when he was the executive director then. My brothers and I (Ryan and Allan) were so thrilled to watch the games."

Officially, only four names are in the list of nominees. Unofficially however, the chairman of a television conglomerate was strongly pushing for Ogie Narvasa, a lawyer and former MBA/PBL Commissioner while a popular scribe was batting for former PBA coach and UAAP commissioner Joe Lipa.

# UST, Ateneo cross paths in Filoil tilt

GAMES TODAY (*The Arena in San Juan*)
2 p.m.—UST vs. Ateneo
4 p.m.—La Salle vs. San Beda
6 p.m.—Perpetual Help vs PCU

TWO STRUGGLING TEAMS CLASH IN TODAY'S triple header as reigning UAAP champion University of Santo Tomas squares off against the team it beat for the title, Ateneo, in the Filoil-Flying V Preseason Invitational Cup at The Arena in San Juan.

The Tigers and the Eagles square off at 2 p.m. after which De La Salle University faces a tough San Beda College in the 4 p.m. game.

Dubbed as Clash of the Titans, the Red Lions sport a 2-1 win–loss record will try to improve their standing against the Green Archers, who are dusting off the rust collected after a one-month hiatus forced on them by a season-long suspension.

Rebounding king Sam Ekwe, playmaker Pong Escobal and reliable Yousif Aljamal plus back-ups Ogie Menor, Ray Maggay and Dave Marcelo and Garvo Lanete expected to carry the load for San Beda.

The Archers on the other hand will ride on their opening day momentum where they won over the Ateneo Blue Eagles in a close match. DLSU will rely on veterans Ty Tang, JV Casio, Rico Maierhoffer and Cholo Villanueva to get them a second victory.

In the opening match at 2 p.m., the UST Growling Tigers go up versus the Ateneo Blue Eagles, who are still trying to get their first win after suffering their third set back to the Letran nights last Friday 63-72.

# Badminton winners get RP pool slots

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SLOTS IN THE NATIONAL TRAINING POOL await the winners of the Yonex-Sunrise regional championships-3rd Valencia Badminton Sports Center anniversary tournament which fires off May 19-20.

This was promised by chief organizer, national head coach Errol Chan who vowed to continue the search for young blood that he hopes would finally fuel RP badminton in the international scene.

To better pinpoint gems in the rough, Chan said he will put emphasis in the age-group competitions, particularly in the 15-under and 12-under action.

However, national pool members and aspirants are also eligible join the competitions which will continue conducting duct leveling sessions today at the Valencia Badminton Center.

"There is no doubt that there is a lot of talent out there," said Chan. "The only problem is how to get them to leave everything behind for the sake of full-time training."

Chan rued the fact that parents of young promising players are not willing to send their kids to months of training in Manila and even abroad.

"Well I can't blame them because studies must come first, so we are talking here of making a small sacrifice of three to six months of training in China perhaps," added Chan.

For details, call officials Judith Brosula (0919-2449799) and Francis Salas (0927-9751464).

# Streaking Kings destroy Express

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:05 p.m.—Alaska vs Welcoat
6:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs San Miguel Beer

By Musong R. Castillo

**ANGELES—BARANGAY GINEBRA wriggled out of a tight first quarter with several spurts in the second to put away Air21, 136-115, and zoom to a sixth straight victory in the PBA Fiesta Cup at the Holy Angels University gym here.**

The Gin Kings methodically broke away from the Express behind Rod Nealy and their hard-fighting locals, closing out the half ahead by 14 to win with plenty to spare and improve to a league-best 10-2.

Ginebra, riding on the tournament's longest winning streak, moved within two more wins of a possible playoff for an automatic berth in the semifinals.

The Express, who wilted not only because of the oven-hot conditions in the playing arena but also under the weight of the Kings' scoring spree, dropped to 8-4. They are now tied for second place with defending champion Red Bull.

The reigning Philippine Cup champion Ginebra has not lost a game in more than a month, establishing this streak even without key players in its roster.

The Kings, already playing without national team draftees Mark Caguioa and Jayjay Helterbrand, are also without Rudy Hatfield, Erik Menk, Johnny Abarrientos and Rafi Reavis for different reasons.

Sill, Ginebra waxed hot as most of its players contributed, with Mark Macapagal and Sunday Salvacion leading a frenzied scoring spree in the second half that had the Kings all but settling the outcome after just three quarters, 102-78.

Meanwhile, San Miguel Beer shoots for a fourth straight win today when it clashes with troubled Purefoods at the Araneta Coliseum.

Finally playing well despite a depleted lineup, the Beermen clash at 6:35 p.m. with the Giants, who will welcome back import Marquin Chandler from a suspension.

Alaska tries to climb into a tie for third earlier when it tangles with Welcoat at 4:05 p.m.

Chandler was fined P20,000 on top of a one-game ban that led to an 80-77 loss for getting in contact with a game official.

### Junior PBA

Meanwhile, The annual Burlington-PBA Basketball League gets going at today at the Araneta Coliseum with a record 15 teams joining the summer offering for kids.

The tournament has been expanded into two divisions. Division 1 is confined to kids aged 9-10 years old while Division 2 is for players aged 11 and 12.

Tender Juicy
8

**PETER Jun Simon of Purefoods tries to get past the defense of Coca-Cola hotshot Joseph Yeo in their game Friday night. The Tigers won, 80-77.** AUGUST DELA CRUZ

# National wushu event unearths potential star

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPION CHELSEA Bernasconi emerged as the darling of the 2007 National Wushu Championship after completing a golden treble yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Bernasconi topped the changguan in runaway fashion to emerge as the most bemedaled athlete in the two-day event of the Wushu Federation of the Philippines.

She tallied 9.16 to beat Jill Pe (8.85) and Nina Fabros (8.73) of Fil-Chinese Athletic Federation. Last Friday, Bernasconi won the short and long weapon events in taolu.

Sharing the limelight with Bernasconi were the athletes of Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR), who dominated the sanshou events.

"Chelsea has a great potential, we hope we can harness her talent further," said WFP secretary-general Edwin Pimentel. "We saw a lot of talents and we're hoping to get them for further training."

Leading the assault of CAR was World Cup silver medalist Benjie Rivera who easily won over Ge-Jie Eustaquio, also of CAR, in the 56kg division.

Other winners for CAR were Lea Gamboa (48kg), Sharma Buteng (52kg), Joy Dagdagen (60kg), Mark Eddiva (65kg), Jason Domingo (52kg) and Zephania Ngaya (female, 56kg).

Robin Catalan also stamped his class by securing the gold in the junior 48kg division while Philip Delarmino and Ernie Braca reigned supreme in the 52kg and 60kg, respectively.

Domingo and Jessie Aligaga won by default over their respective rivals.

Also shining in the taolu were Anthony Ting of the Philippine Cultural High School who beat Baguio's Rogie Massagan for the gold in the nanguan, Lolita Lutanco, who emerged No. 1 taijiguan and Raymundo Roberto in taiji.

Mary Stephanie Abgay produced the first gold for Cebu by topping women's taijiguan while Davao's Hanna Fuentebella outshone teammate Altarah Javines and captured the girls' free style taiji.

CAR's Eleazar Jacob also beat teammate Jadaya Dasi Bismark to secure the gold in the free style taiji.

# Tagaytay City hosts poker qualifying tournament

POKER ENTHUSIASTS ON A WEEKEND vacation at Tagaytay City will have the chance to win free seats for the third Philippine Poker Tour (PPT) Million-Peso Hold'em Championship when Casino Filipino-Tagaytay hosts a satellite/qualifying tournament today.

Registration starts at 2 pm.

PPT Chairman Rey Gamboa also announced that satellite/qualifying tournaments will soon be conducted in major cities in Visayas and Mindanao.

The first southern leg competition is scheduled at Casino Filipino Lahug on May 19 in Cebu followed by competitions in Bacolod and Davao.

PPT, the leading proponent of non-wager poker skills tournaments, is conducting satellite/qualifying tournaments to give poker players opportunities to participate in major tournaments where attractive prizes are at stake.

Those who qualify will get seats to the grand finals to be held July 7-8.

Qualifying tournaments are ongoing in the following venues: San Mig Alabang Town Center every Wednesdays and Fridays; and at Elbow Room at MetroWalk in Pasig every Thursday.

For details, visit www.PhilippinePokerTour.com or call call the PPT secretariat at 817-9092 or 812-0153.

# FEU, La Salle trounce Nike caging rivals

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY, LA SALLE AND University of the Philippines hurdled their respective rivals in the 2007 Nike Summer League basketball tournament at the FEU gym yesterday.

FEU subdued National University, 75-65, to post its fifth straight win and clinch a quarterfinals berth in the tourney.

Mac Baracael topscored with 15 points for the Tamaraws, who are now being handled by coach Glen Capacio.

Jessi Garcia led the Bulldogs with 17 points.

La Salle-Taft demolished Olivarez College, 120-69, for its third straight win in Group B, while UP shocked UAAP champion University of Santo Tomas, 78-70, for its first win in three outings.

Fil-Austrian Rico Maihofer led the Archers of coach Franz Pumaren with 16 points.

Seven other player scored in double figures for the Taft-based school with Hyram Bagatsing scoring 14 points and Yugoslavian recruit Marko Batricevic contributing 12 points. Veteran point guard Jayvee Casio added 11 and Kish Co, James Mangahas and Brian Ilad chipped in 10 points apiece.

Former San Sebastian mainstay Mike Lindaya carried the fight for Olivarez with 24 points, followed by Ralph Ripalda with 16.

Jay Agbayani and Mark Lopez combined for 27 points for UP.

PCU-Dasma downed San Beda-Alabang, 69-55, in another seniors encounter.

Julian Carlo Docto scored 20 points, Marlito Escobal added 15 and Arnel Ibarrientos contributed 13 for PCU-Dasma.

In juniors action, UE nipped San Beda-Alabang, 61-51, for its third win in five outings.

Adrian Santos led the Pages with 27 points, followed by Dave de Guzman with 18 points.

In other junior games, La Salle Zobel edged PCU, 78-73, and PCCr downed Adamson, 70-67. David Webb fired 19 points for the Greenies, who posted their fourth straight win in Group D.

**DON DON** Villamin (right) of Henkel drives fast against Francis Gerard Jones of Magnolia during their first half action at Arena Gym, San Juan City.

RUDY ESPERAS

# Castro triple gives Harbour solo lead

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JASON CASTRO HIT A BUZZER-BEATING THREE-POINTER TO LIFT HARbour Centre to a dramatic 73-70 triumph over Toyota Balintawak and the solo lead in the 2007 PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Arena in San Juan.

The shifty off-guard, who sparked a rally that saw the Batang Pier wipe out a 67-63 lead by the Road Kings, struck with the game's biggest basket after Patrick Cabahug had tied the contest with five seconds left, 70-all, ironically with another triple.

"It is because of their maturity that we were able to win this game," said coach Jorge Gallent of the Batang Pier. "We again leaned on the team's never-say-die attitude which Jason best exemplified."

Harbour finished the first round of the eliminations with a leading 5-1 win-loss card while Toyota Balintawak slipped to 3-3.

Henkel Sista earlier clinched its second straight win by downing San Miguel-Magnolia, 71-62.

Fil-Am Ryan Reyes debuted for the Super Sealers with 18 points, including seven in the third that gave them a 57-49 lead going into the final 10 minutes.

"He's an excellent guard, a big boost to us," said Caloy Garcia of his prized find. "But we still have to play harder in our next game so that we can stand on solid ground."

The Road Kings looked on their way to victory with a four-point lead going into the last two minutes. But, in the words of Gallent himself, "they celebrated too soon."

Toyota fell into a rash of errors down the stretch even as Castro took up the cudgels for Harbour when it mattered most.

The Beverage Masters wound up tied with the Super Sealers at 2-4 despite getting inspired plays from Jeff Chan, who finished with 16 points. Both teams are scheduled to meet again when the second round starts today.

**GAMES TODAY** *(The Arena, San Juan)*
2 p.m.—Henkel Sista vs Magnolia
4 p.m.—CB Pera Padala vs Dazz

**The scores:**

**First Game**

**HARBOUR CENTRE 73**—Intal 13, Castro 12, Lanete 9, Duncil 9, Aran 8, Vergara 7, Belga 5, Capati 3, Fernandez 2, Alonzo 2, Asoro 1, Williams 0.

**TOYOTA BALINTAWAK 70**—Daa 22, Rodriguez 11, Cruz 10, Cabahug 10, Jaime 5, Coching 4, Fajardo 4, Coron el 2, Baluyot 2, Alcaraz 0, Cagoco 0, Tan 0, Dedicatoria 0, Guerrero 0.

**Quarters:** 12-17, 28-31, 52-52, 73-70.

**Second Game**

**HENKEL SISTA 71**—Reyes 18, Matias 17, Malabanan 11, Saldua 9, Bonus 8, Villamin 5, Alfad 3, Javier 1, Yambao 0, Bauzon 0, Misa 0, Ebuen 0, Eman 0, Robles 0.

**MAGNOLIA 62**—Chan 16, Villanueva 12, Custodio 9, Bombeo 6, Jones 5, Espiritu 5, Evangelista 4, Raneses 2, Sorongon 1, Doruelo 1, Benitez 0, Natividad 0, Angeles 0.

**Quarters:** 15-11, 32-25, 57-49, 71-62.

# Yap-Santos paces Forest Hills tourney

ANTIPOLO—ALLAN YAP AND Richie Santos opened their Division I title defense impressively yesterday, combining for an 85 in the first round of the Forest Hills Invitational presented by Callaway and Hyundai at the Nicklaus course here.

Yap, a member of the Forest Hills team and vice president of the Quezon City Sports Club, and Santos played steady despite the oppressive heat to stay on course for a crown repeat. A ladies tandem made up of Tess Staub and veteran internationalist Lora Roberto was in second with a 78.

More than 400 players made up of members and their guests teed off in the tournament also being backed by Golforce, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes, Sun Cellular and Northwest Airlines.

Ramon Villarete and Chito Ilumin assembled an 81 under the Stableford system of scoring for the Division II lead, while Charlie Kim and Don Lee amassed an 84 to show the way in Division III.

The Lily Young-Beth Menchavez duo was tied with the Bojo Mijares-Jayson Roayu team for second in Division II with 77 points, just four behind Villarete-Ilumin.

Two squads were also tied for second in Division III, 10 points behind Kim and Lee. Mario Suzara and Amor Perdigon and Sander Lubiano-Bernardo Cruz assembled identical 74s.

The father and son team of Ramon and Eduardo Garcia pooled a 88 and set the pace in the overall race of this tournament that winds up today with the awarding ceremonies where a car may end up being raffled off.

A brand new Hyundai Getz, which is being staked for a hole-in-one on one of the four par-3s for all four days of the event, will go to a lucky participant as the top raffle prize in case no one scores an ace.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Tiu keeps solo lead in drag racing

DESPITE LOSING THE LAST LEG, JONATHAN TIU HELD ON TO THE SOLO LEAD in the quest for the Drag Racing Driver of the Year award of the 2007 San Mig Coffe Drag Racing Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit here. Tiu, who owns the track record of 10.57 seconds, holds a total of 25 points following his season-opener victory and his runner-up finish in the second leg. He was booted out early in the third leg. Sonny de Torres of Group N-Matonetics also garnered 25 points in the Pro class following a runner-up finish in the second leg and a big win over Blanche Racing's Jon Sarmiento in the last race. Sharing second place with 15 points apiece are Mato Tan of Matonetics, Vanni Garcia of W. Autosport Vannitec and Pro Class drivers Roy Peter Concepcion of Orthodox Racing and lady driver When When Dagondon also of W. Autosport Vannitec.

**STARTING YOUNG:** Kiddie swimmers get encouragement from Pasay City Mayor Allan Panaligan and Rep. Connie Dy during one of the free clinics organized by the Integrated Sports Learning Academy. Call 4805189 (Nicko), 5368799, 2410038 to 40, 8875923 and 8094345 or 8425955

### World Slasher Inv'l starts May 22

MASTER COCKERS FROM THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCENE ARE FIELding entries for the World Slasher Invitational 8-Cock Derby, set May 22, 24 and 26 at the Araneta Coliseum. The event attracts top sportsmen from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Guam, Germany and Japan, who are out to challenge the country's gamefowl breeders. The biannual cockfight's first leg in January drew the most entries in the derby's history, but the upcoming tourney is expected to break that record. Foreigners expected to compete include Roger Roberts of Georgia (World Slasher Champion 2001), Ray Alexander of Alabama, Mike Formosa of Hawaii, Joe Stanfield of California, Speedy Gonzales of California, Jessie Sevilla of Florida and Roy Miñoza and Ric Cabullos of Canada.

### 1st Tri-Media golf at Valley tomorrow

THE 1ST TRI-MEDIA GOLF TOURNAMENT, OPEN TO GOLFERS FROM PRINT, radio and television, will be held tomorrow at the Valley Golf and Country Club south course in Antipolo City. Tee-off time will be at 7 a.m., shotgun style. Scoring will use the System 36 formula. Proceeds will go to charitable activities and social welfare projects under the auspices of the Fondazione De San Pietro Inc. The event is sponsored by Pagcor, Airport Casino Filipino, Heritage Casino Filipino, Pavilion Casino Filipino, Club Tropicana, Smart Communication, INQUIRER, Cordym Tours and Travel, Thunder Corp., LSM Builders and Steel Inc, PCSO, Air21, Arce Dairy, Ping-Ping Lechon, Energy FM, NU-107, YES-FM and Business Mirror.

### 2nd Jockey's Day Racefest today

MEMBERS OF THE NEW PHILIPPINE JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION INC. (NPJAI) HAVE harnessed the support of industry stalwarts and corporate benefactors to stage the 2nd Philippine Jockey's Day racing fundraiser today at the Santa Ana Park. The event has a full card of 13 trophy races bannered by three P250,000 winner-take-all stakes encounters. The three cup races were made possible through the support of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and United Laboratories. Highlight race would be the 2nd NPJAI Jockey's Cup race, an all-comers event featuring lone entry Harrod's Magic battling against four other imports over 1,500 meters.

**TEAM G.FRO** technicians examine the wrecked Star Formula Car of Tyson Sy after it was hit by another vehicle before crashing into a tire wall.

# Bantayan, San Agustin cream volleyball foes

COLEGIO DE SAN AGUSTIN Makati escaped with a nail-biting 25-21, 21-25, 25-23 victory over Saint Jude Catholic School yesterday at the start of the Shakey's Girls Volleyball Invitational League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

In the first game, Bantayan High School swept Valenzuela High School, 25-20, 25-23, to get its campaign off on the right track.

Last year's champion University of the East will try to defend its title against 23 other participating high school teams in the tournament.

"This year brings big improvement with more teams participating," said Shakey's General Manager Vic Gregorio. "It's our advocacy program to promote volleyball in the country."

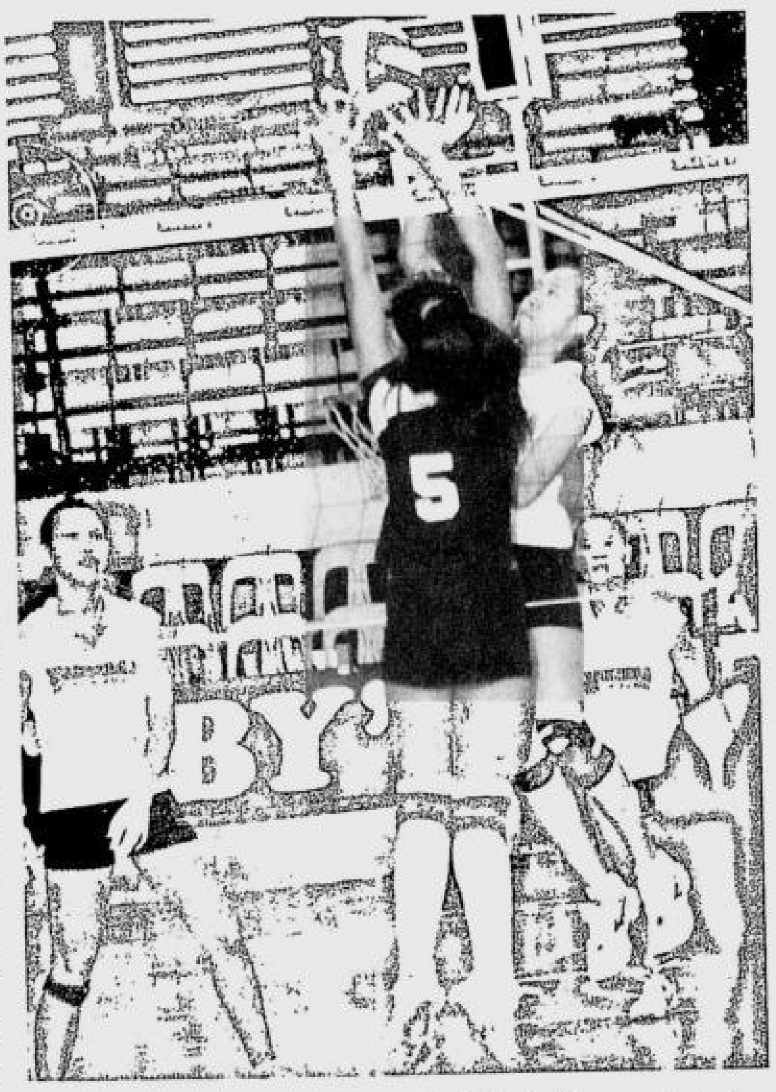
Gregorio joined the ceremonial toss with Freddie Infrante, tournament organizer, Vip Isada, Philippine Volleyball Federation director-treasurer and Vic Gregorio.

The teams are divided into four brackets competing in a single round robin format. The top two teams per bracket will qualify to the next round.

Games are held every Saturdays and Sundays at the Blue Eagle Gym with four games scheduled per day.

Trophies and gift certificates are at stake. The winning teams will fly to Bacolod to compete with the Visayas squads. The league is backed by Mikasa, Toby's and Asics.

*Shelly C. Dimaculangan*



**THE THIRD** season of the Shakey's Girls Volleyball League started yesterday at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym. Bantayan High School beat Valenzuela High School in the opener.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

**Race 1**—(Qrt/Tri)—Stingray (10, Red Bella (2), Prince larry (6), Atribida (3)
**Race 2**—(Qrt/Tri)—Kawiliwili (6), Hukom (4), Angel Eyes (5), Bingbong (3)
**Race 3**—(Qrt/Tri)—Hepburn (4), Strong Will (2), Beat D'Heat (1), Suplada (6)
**Race 4**—(Qrt/Tri)—Ingay Ingay (8), Manila's Smile (2), Sir Guguy (5), Just A Moment (7)
**Race 5**—(Tri)—Expiditer (6), Desert Breeze (1), Daddy's Girl (2), Power Dance (5)
**Race 6**—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Sinner Or Saint (3), Lady Inday (8), Janelle's Episode (1), Brigade Boss (9)
**Race 7**—(Tri)—Serious Susie (4), Fear Me (3), Harrod's Magic (1)
**Race 8**—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— Bumpy Johnson (1), Words Of Joy (2), Virgin Island (12), Selfmade (8), Golden Lance (7)
**Race 9**—(Qrt/Tri)—Jewelmer (3), West N Wild (2), Kaligatan (1), Powerhouse (8)
**Race 10**—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Prince Aidan (1), Spinning Bullet (8), Crystal City (8), BMI Baby (3), Apple Splash (2)
**Race 11**—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—My Neneng (2), Golden Sutter (8), Storm Hall (7), Runnin Rebel (9), True Account (5)
**Race 12**—(Qrt/Tri)—Treasured Ack (2), Gypsy Grey (8), Maglev (3), Sword O'War (4)
**Race 13**—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Common Goal (1), Mainstay (4), Flying Strike (6), Wild Orphan (12), Terry Toon (3), Play It Again (10)

# Sy suffers major mishap in US race

FILIPINO STAR TYSON SY FIGured in the second major mishap of his career when another car collided with his during the first lap of the 2007 Star Mazda Championship third round, held recently at the Virginia International Raceway in Alton, Virginia, in the US. Sy, who qualified in ninth place, was negotiating a flat out corner leading to the main straight when Venezuelan Ricardo Vassmer slid into the grass, ran into a ditch and was catapulted back onto the track in front of Sy. Vassmer's car veered into the path of Sy, who was left without any room to pass, resulting in a heavy collision that raised Sy's car on two wheels and sent it crashing into the tire wall. Vassmer's car burst into flames but he was able to exit the cockpit within seconds. Sy, meanwhile, was rendered unconscious by the impact but was extracted from the car by Vassmer and an emergency crew a few minutes later.

Vassmer was unhurt but Sy sustained a minor injury to his leg as well as a concussion. Both drivers were taken to the on-track trauma center and were subsequently released.

Sy is undergoing further tests at the Metropolitan Hospital.

Sy, who drives for Team G.FRO and is supported by Petron XCS, Puma and Demvels Motorsports, is now waiting to receive a clean bill of health before flying back to the US to compete in the fourth round of the Star Mazda Championship which will be held in the Miller Motorsports Park in Toole, Utah, on May 19.

During last year's Asian Formula Three Series, Sy was also involved in a heavy shunt in Zhuhai, China, where he and Dillon Battistini came together on the main straight.

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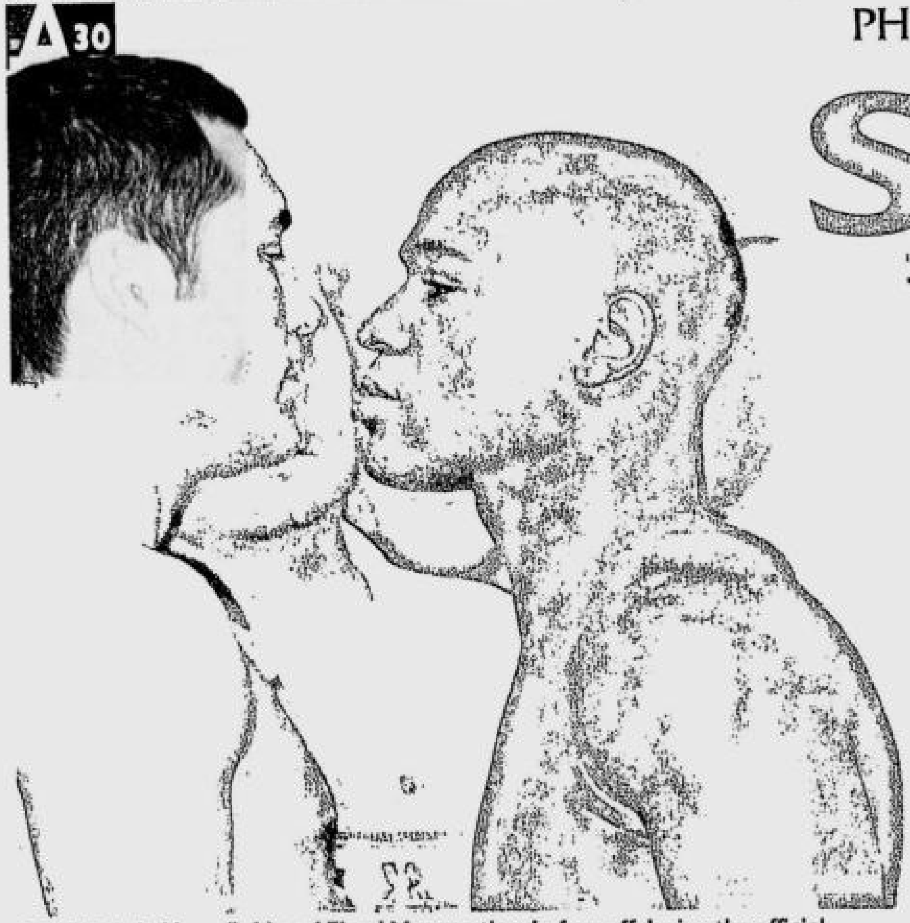
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
ack: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



OSCAR de la Hoya (left) and Floyd Mayweather Jr. face off during the official weigh-in at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. The American fighters meet today for the WBC super welterweight world championship belt. AFP

# All-time Mayweather test up

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—UNBEATEN Floyd Mayweather weighed in at the heaviest mark of his career here Friday on the eve of a showdown with Oscar de la Hoya, who tipped the scales right on the super welterweight limit.

The US fighters engaged in one final staredown before Saturday's (Sunday morning in Manila) bout to delight 7,000 fans, most cheering for De la Hoya, after Mayweather weighed in at 150 pounds (68.03 kg) and De la Hoya weighed in at 154 pounds (69.85 kg).

Most oddsmakers and prognosticators favor Mayweather in a decision, but the odds have steadily dropped in De La Hoya's favor during fight week.

"Weight doesn't win fights. Popularity doesn't win fights. Skill wins fights. That's what I have," Mayweather said. "I don't care if he outweighs me by 25 pounds. I'm going to beat him when it's all said and done."

Mayweather (37-0, 24 knockouts) is seen as boxing's best pound-for-pound fighter while popular Mexican-American hero De la Hoya (38-4, 30 knockouts) is set to pass Mike Tyson as boxing's all-time pay-per-view revenue king with more than $100 million in earnings.

Mayweather, 30, moves up to the heaviest weight class of his career and will surpass his previous high for a fight, the 147 pounds he weighed 18 months ago in a sixth-round stoppage of compatriot Sharmba Mitchell.

De la Hoya, 34, trimmed down his larger frame to defend his World Boxing Council crown in only his second fight in 2 1/2 years. A year ago, he stopped Nicaragua's Ricardo Mayorga in the sixth round at 153 pounds.

De la Hoya's top weight was 160 pounds in a 2004 win over Felix Sturm.

Mayweather has set the tone for pre-fight hype aimed beyond boxing's traditional core fan base with trash talking.

"I've done enough talking," Mayweather said. "Now it's time to fight."

Strategy will play a pivotal role in the fight, with De la Hoya needing to take advantage of superior size to offset the youth and speed advantages of Mayweather.

It's all going to come down to speed and punching power," De la Hoya said. *(See related story on page A27.)* *AFP*

# *Tiger, Vijay move atop Wachovia*

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA—Tiger Woods seized a share of the halfway lead in the $6.4-million Wachovia Championship on Friday, alongside Vijay Singh and Arron Oberholser.

Woods hit only five fairways, but managed not to make a bogey until his final hole as he carded a 4-under-par 68 for 6-under 138.

Fiji's Singh, who like Woods played in benign morning conditions, posted a 71 while Oberholser fired a 69 to complete the trio, who led Ted Purdy (69) and Jason Bohn (72) by one shot.

Ken Duke (70) was a further shot back on 140.

Woods, who has never won here, signed for five birdies against the one bogey.

"I'm very pleased with my score," said Woods, who was making his first start since last month's Masters. "I missed a couple of short ones but also got away with a couple of bad drives."

First-round leader Padraig Harrington recovered from a poor start to regain the outright lead with two holes to play, only to drop four shots in a nightmare finish.

Singh also made a sluggish start, dropping two shots on his outward half, but he finished strong, picking up three strokes in his last three holes. *AFP*

# Nets set up series vs Cavs

**EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY—Richard Jefferson made the go-ahead basket with 8.3 seconds left, stole a pass on the next possession, and the New Jersey Nets beat the Toronto Raptors, 98-97, to win the NBA first-round playoff series, 4-2, on Friday.**

After underachieving for most of the season, the Nets now head to Cleveland for Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals on Sunday.

Jason Kidd finished with 18 points, 15 assists and eight rebounds for the Nets, averaging a triple-double for the series.

Jefferson scored 24 points and Vince Carter added 21 despite shooting 6-of-19 from the field.

Chris Bosh had 23 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the Atlantic Division champion Raptors. But Jose Calderon's pass to him was intercepted by Jefferson, sending the Raptors to their ninth straight road postseason loss.

After four dismal games in New Jersey this season, Bosh was terrific this time, scoring 13 points in the fourth quarter. He banked in a jumper with 47 seconds left, giving the Raptors a 97-96 lead.

But after a timeout, Jefferson drove into the lane and rose over Bosh for his layup. The Raptors then tried to find Bosh cutting to the basket, but Jefferson came away with Calderon's pass and put the Nets back into the conference semifinals.

Toronto got inspired efforts from banged-up point guards T.J. Ford and Calderon, who combined for 33 points. But the best point guard on the floor, as usual, was Kidd, who averaged 14 points, 13.2 assists and 10 rebounds to became the first player to average a triple-double for a series since he did it against Boston in the 2002 Eastern Conference finals. *AP*

# *'Racial bias a bum rap'*

EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY—NBA commissioner David Stern criticized Friday a study regarding racial bias among league officials and the New York Times for printing it, saying racism "doesn't exist in the NBA."

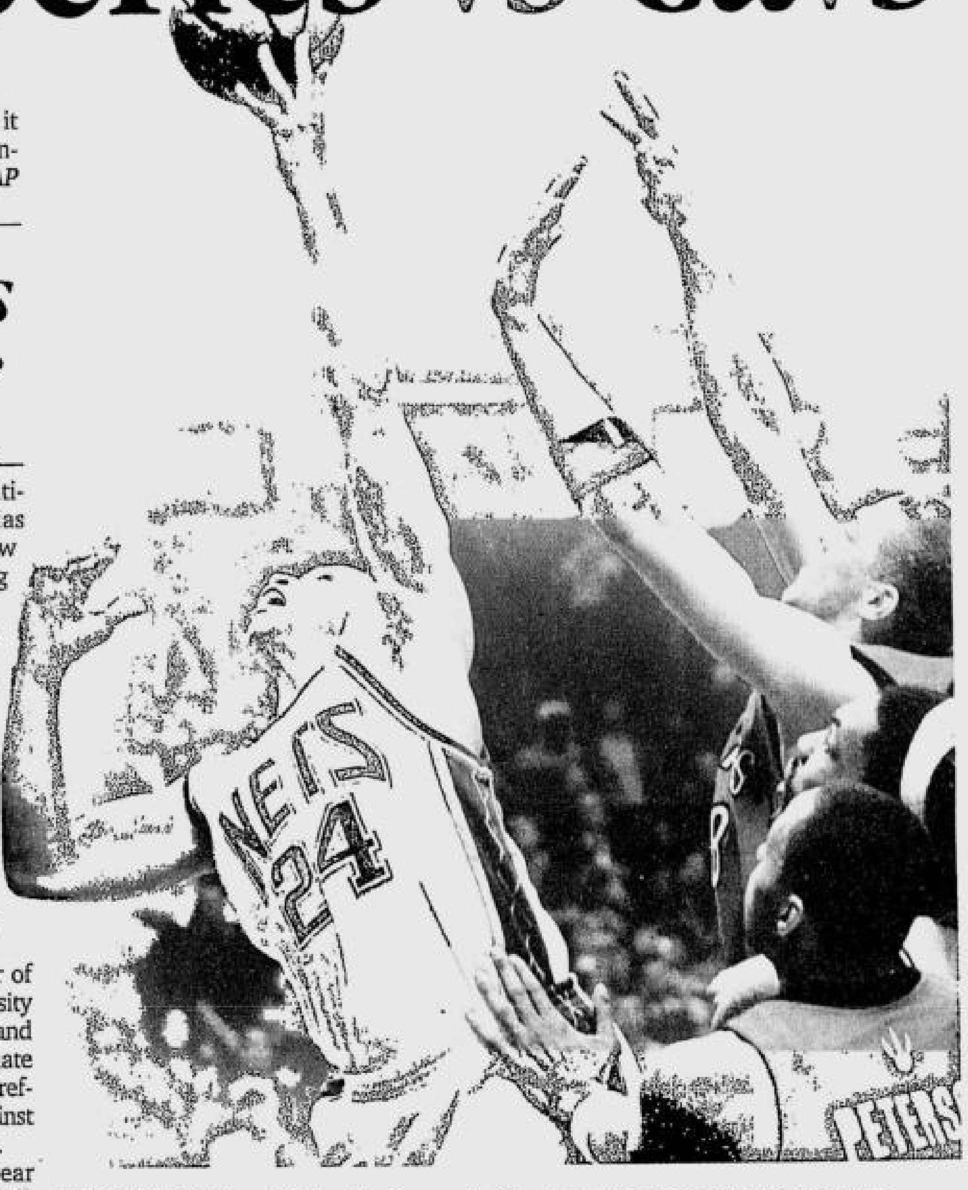
"My major concern about it is that it's wrong," Stern said of the report.

"This is a bum rap, and if it is going to be laid on us it should be laid on us by basis of some people who are purported to be scholars in a publication that purports to hold us up to a higher standard—a little bit more should have been done."

Stern seemed more annoyed with the Times, saying it "behaved very badly, very badly."

Justin Wolfers, an assistant professor of business and public policy at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, and Joseph Price, a Cornell University graduate student in economics, found that white referees called fouls at a greater rate against black players than against white players.

The study, conducted over a 13-year span through 2004, showed only the referees' names and contained no information about which official made a call. *AP*



NEW JERSEY Nets' Richard Jefferson (left) puts up the game-winning shot as Toronto Raptors' Anthony Parker (right) and Morris Peterson (bottom right) fail to stop him. AP

# Kuznetsova expels Venus, enters semis

WARSAW, POLAND—SVETLANA Kuznetsova rallied to beat Venus Williams, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, Friday and reach the semifinals at the clay-court J&S Cup.

"It was so much fun to play, it was so much passion," Kuznetsova said.

Also, top-ranked Justine Henin of Belgium beat Mara Santangelo of Italy, 6-2, 6-1; fourth-seeded Jelena Jankovic of Serbia advanced after sixth-seeded Anna Chakvetadze of Russia retired with a right shoulder strain while trailing, 7-6 (1), 3-1; and Alona Bondarenko of Ukraine also won after Julia Vakulenko withdrew with a sprained right wrist while trailing, 6-2, 3-1.

Kuznetsova will next play Bondarenko.

Williams, looking to avenge a quarterfinal loss to Kuznetsova at last year's edition of the tournament, stole two quick breaks from her Russian opponent to capture the first set.

But Kuznetsova found a rhythm in the second set, moving the American on the baseline and nailing passing shots and lobs when Williams tired to attack the net.

Kuznetsova watched a forehand from Williams sail long to break and take a 2-1 lead on her way to winning the set.

After trading early breaks in the third set, Williams broke again to lead 4-2.

But Kuznetsova broke back, held serve, and then hit a deep forehand to force an error from Williams to lead 5-4 and serve out the match.

"I'm very happy to go through today's match because I think Venus played very well," Kuznetsova said. *AP*

# Castrale paces SemGroup

BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA—Nicole Castrale fired a 4-under-par 67 here Friday to claim a one-shot lead after the first round of the $1.4-million LPGA SemGroup Championship.

In her second full season on the LPGA tour since turning pro in 2001, Castrale has two top-10 finishes in 2007, including a fourth-place tie at the Ginn Open three weeks ago.

After making $409,000 in her injury-disrupted first six years as a professional, Castrale has already won $181,000 this season.

"I just figure if I keep doing what I'm doing, good things will happen," Castrale said.

Castrale has a one-shot lead over Brandie Burton, Angela Stanford and Sweden's Karin Sjodin, who carded 68s on a sodden Cedar Ridge country club course.

Defending champion Cristie Kerr, who shot a career-best 10-under-par 61 in the second round here last year, shot a 3-over 74 and was tied for 75th.

Lorena Ochoa of Mexico carded a 70 for a share of 12th place. *AFP*

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# Sunday BIZ

*Business Features Editor* **Margie Quimpo-Espino**
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**P&G Philippines president Jim Lafferty with Romeo Silva**
ROMY HOMILLADA

# Exec saves a man's life

**By Tina Arceo-Dumlao**

## Savior came in shorts and rubber shoes

ON OCT. 24, 2006, ROMIL SILVA OF LIPA, Batangas, believed he saw Christ.

And no, he did not have shoulder-length hair, kind eyes or a two-inch beard. Rather, the person he saw had the build of a wrestler; wore rubber shoes, shorts and a marathon shirt and was furiously giving CPR to his father who had suffered a heart attack.

It was more than two months later before he realized that the person who had saved his father's life that chaotic day at the Nagoya airport in Japan was James M. Lafferty, president of Procter & Gamble Philippines.

The younger Silva recalls to the INQUIRER that he and his father, Romeo, were lining up at the Nagoya airport for a layover from a long 12-hour flight from Detroit, Michigan, when his 74-year-old father suddenly slumped to the ground.

In his panic, all that he could blurt out was "*Tatay, Tatay, lumaban ka* (Father, father, fight)." He could not even bear to touch his father for fear of making his condition worse.

Lafferty, on the other hand, who was traveling with his wife and two youngest children, was about 10 persons behind the Silvas when he heard the shout, and saw the elder Silva

EXEC SAVES/ B2

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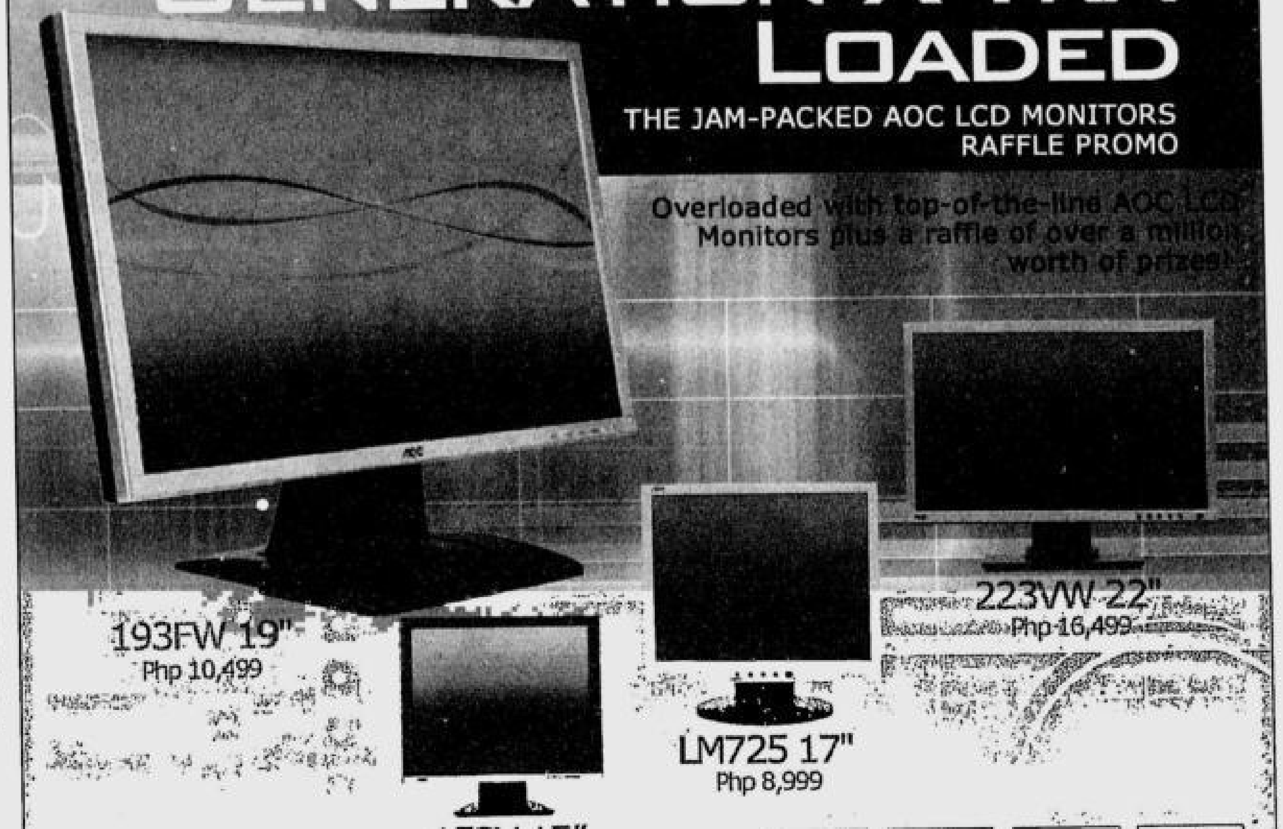

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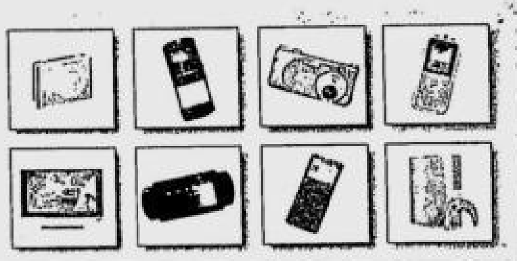

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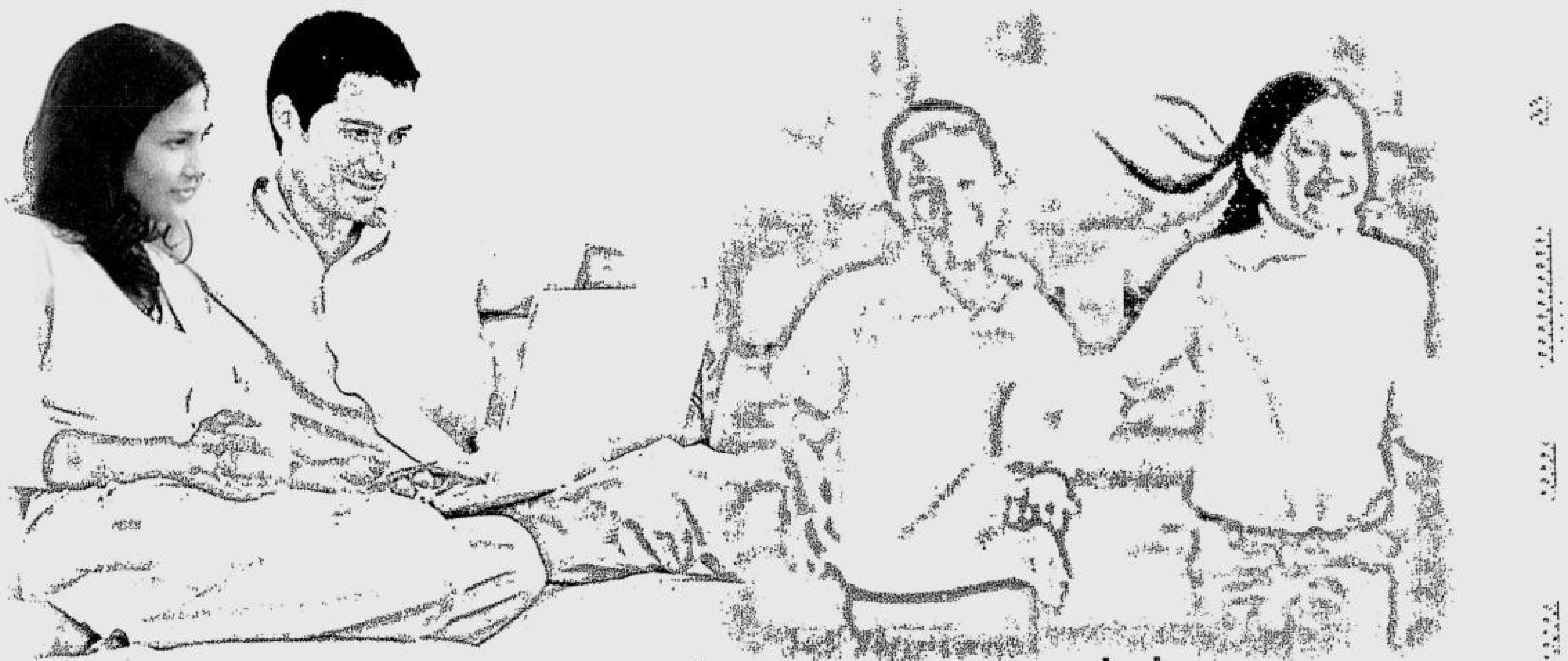

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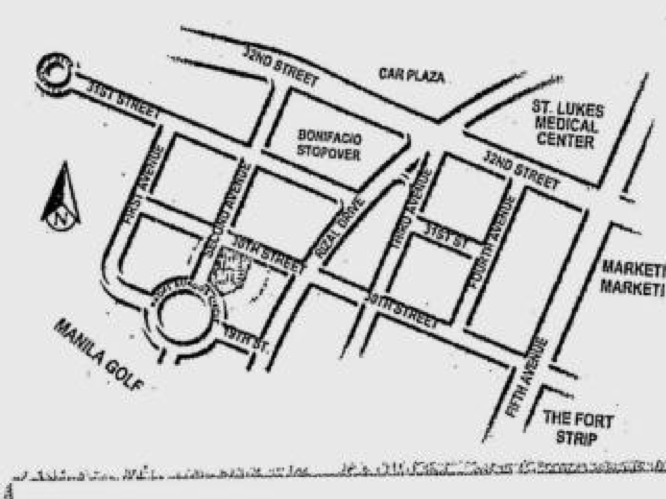

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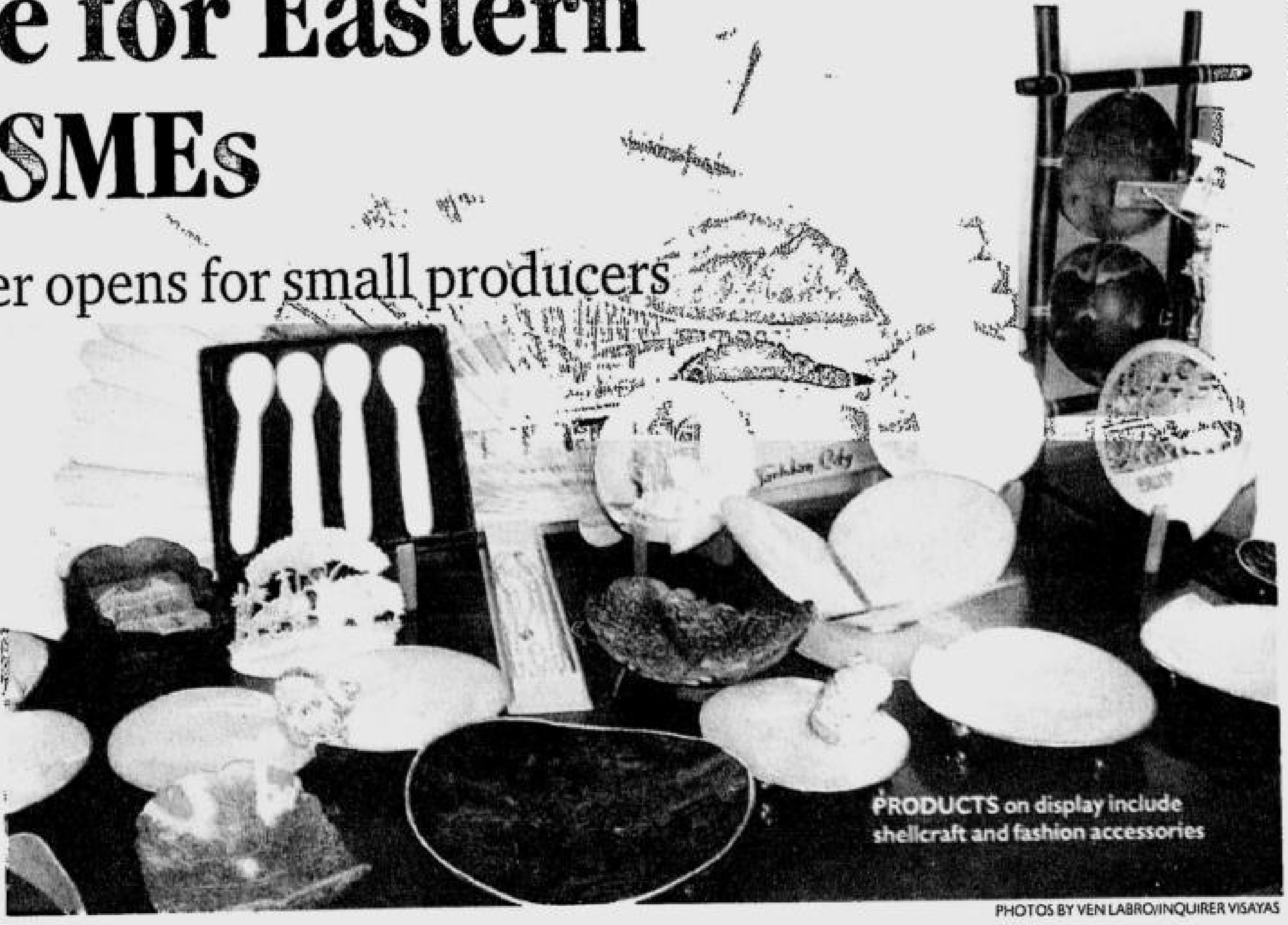
# Showcase for Eastern Visayas' SMEs

## 'Pasalubong' center opens for small producers

**By Vicente Labro**
*Inquirer Visayas*



PRODUCTS on display include shellcraft and fashion accessories

PHOTOS BY VEN LABRO/INQUIRER VISAYAS

TACLOBAN CITY—UP UNTIL JANUARY last year, the products of micro and small entrepreneurs in Eastern Visayas did not get much exposure.

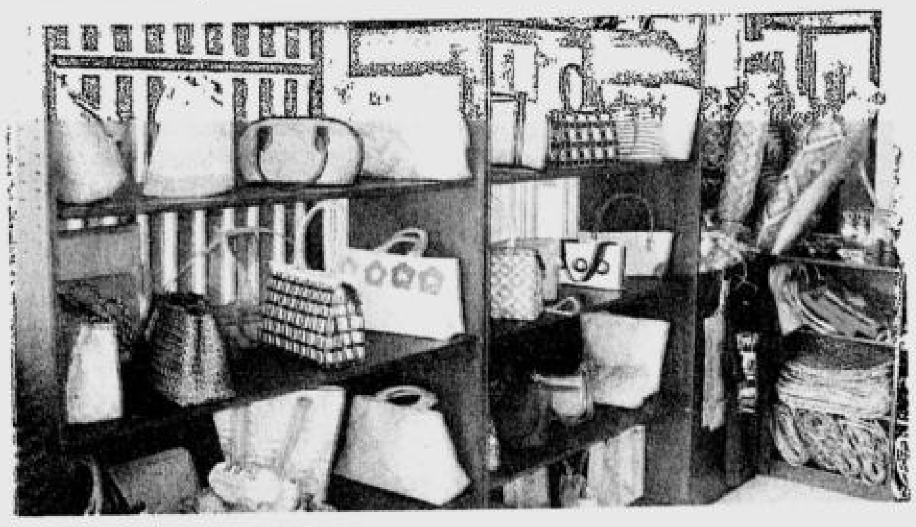
These small entrepreneurs were limited to trade fairs to showcase and sell their products, which include food delicacies, fashion accessories and handicrafts.

Recognizing the need for them to have increased market exposure, the Bahandi Producers Association of Eastern Visayas (BPAEV) decided to set up the Pasalubong Center at the terminal building of the Daniel Z. Romualdez Airport in Barangay San Jose, about 12 kilometers from Tacloban City proper.

The Pasalubong Center, which displays handicrafts, processed food, fashion accessories and souvenir T-shirts, allows locals and visitors to see and buy products made by the BPAEV member-firms.

The Pasalubong Center started its operation in December 2005 but was formally opened in January 2006.

Since then, foreign tourists, balikbayans and other visitors to the city have frequented the gift center where they can buy such native delicacies as binagol, moron, pastillas de leche, native cookies and banana or ube chips as well as native bags, mats, wall decors and fashion accessories made of dried tikog or pandan weeds, coconut sheaths, or seashells.



BAGS are popular items

Composed of small entrepreneurs who have been joining the Bahandi Trade Fair in Mandaluyong City since the late 1980s, the BPAEV was organized in 2002 by the Department of Trade and Industry regional office headed by Regional Director Cynthia Nierras and the DTI provincial offices.

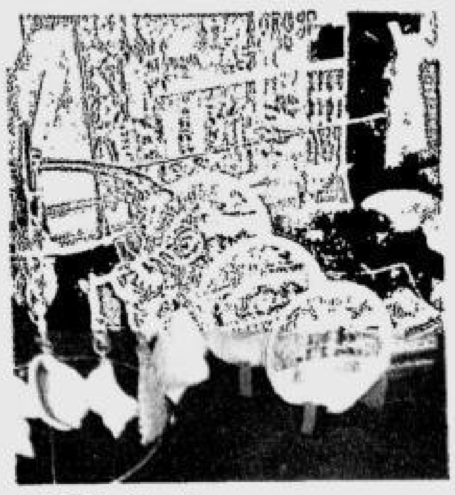
These small entrepreneurs have been staging every year the Bahandi Trade Fair at the SM Megamall. They have also been attending business management and product development, among other training courses, conducted by the DTI and other government agencies.

Through the years, they have developed into competent businessmen, the DTI office here noted.

TIKOG mats

BPAEV executive director Lolito Aures says there were only 40 members when the group was put up. By 2004, the membership rose to 82. And in recent years, the membership reached more than 100, but Aures said that only about 40 percent are active.

He explains that financial difficulties forced some of their members to become inactive, "but they are still active in their livelihood activities at their respective places."



MORE shellcraft

Putting up the Pasalubong Center has helped the rest of the members keep growing their business.

"We decided to put up a Pasalubong Center because many of us do not have a common outlet for our products. At that time we only have the Bahandi Trade Fair as a venue to showcase our products," Aures adds.

Aures says a grant from the German government helped the entrepreneurs realize their plan to establish a Pasalubong Center at the airport.

According to Aures, income sales of the present Pasalubong Center averages P3,000-P3,500 a day, a dip from P4,000 in average daily sales registered during the first six months of their operation last year.

But BPAEV members remain optimistic that businesses would pick up steam as the country's economy improves.

Aside from joining the yearly Bahandi Trade Fair, Aures reveals that members of the association are now participating in regional trade fairs like the ones held in Cebu during the Sinulog Festival, in Bacolod during the Masskara Festival, and in Bohol during the Sinugdan Festival.

Aures says the BPAEV plans to put up another Pasalubong Center either in Tacloban City, in Ormoc City, which has a busy seaport for Cebu-bound vessels, or in Capoocan town, which is along the national highway and located midway between Tacloban and Ormoc.

Until then, people will have to go to the Tacloban airport to see what entrepreneurs from the Eastern Visayas have to offer.

# Exec saves a man's life

From page B1

fall to the ground.

His instinct to help kicked in and he rushed to Silva's side. He felt for a pulse, realizing that there was none, he ripped his shirt open and immediately gave CPR to try and restart his heart.

It had been a while since Lafferty last gave CPR, which was why he was running through the steps in his mind while compressing hard on Silva's heart to make sure he was doing it right.

Fortunately, he says, CPR was a skill one doesn't easily forget and it is never as easy as it is made to appear on hospital scenes in television shows.

"We are talking about hard compressions to the chest and I was really all over this person," Lafferty says. "By the time I was done, I had to change my shirt because I was drenched in sweat."

"I also remember looking up twice to shout and ask where the medical personnel were. I looked up again and saw my wife tightly holding on to this young man, whom I later learned was the son of the man I was giving CPR to," Lafferty adds in an interview.

He recalls that during the whole ordeal, only a few people kneeled down beside him to try and help. Thousands more who were at the busiest point of the Nagoya airport—in between customs and security—either just looked the other way or walked on by.

Lafferty also had a choice.

He could either leave Silva to his fate or make the flight to Manila. He chose to stay and try to bring Silva back to life.

"If I had left, what kind of message would I give to my children who always hear me say that we should always try to do the right thing," Lafferty says.

Nagoya airport medical personnel finally came after 45 minutes and put Silva on a stretcher, and only after Lafferty successfully got Silva's heart beating again.

After quickly briefing the medical personnel of Silva's situation, Lafferty and his family hurriedly picked up their bags, rushed through security and got back on the Northwest Airlines flight for Manila.

"Northwest Airlines was outstanding because they held the flight for us. We were the last to board the plane, and we took off as soon as we got in," Lafferty says.

He says about 30 people on board the plane came up to him during the flight to ask him about what had happened. All he could say was that the guy was alive when he last saw him, but that he did not know anything else.

It was his consuming need to know that drove him to do whatever it took to find out what had happened to the elderly person that he did not know from Adam.

He, however, admits that he was not feeling too optimistic because the only two other people he had given CPR to in a beach in Morocco did not make it.

"I really just wanted to know if it was different this time," Lafferty says.

While Lafferty and his family were on their way to Manila, the Silvas, on the other hand, found themselves in a community hospital in Nagoya where nobody spoke any English.

Romeo Silva regained consciousness a few hours after he was admitted, but it took about a day before he was back to normal. It was four days before the Silvas were given the go-ahead to go back to Manila.

"What I learned at the hospital was that the good that you do for others comes back to you tenfold," Romil says.

He related how airline and airport personnel visited them after they got off work just to see how they can help, and how a total stranger went to his room and gave him 2,000 yen because he realized that he did not have any money to buy food with.

On the day that he wheeled his father out of the hospital, some of the staff members were in tears because they got to know the Silvas well, even if they communicated only through sign language.

"When we got on the plane back to Manila, I kept on talking to my father because I was afraid he would fall asleep and have another heart attack," Romil says.

"When we finally landed in Manila, I shouted 'Thank God!' I did not care if the others in the plane were staring at me, I was just happy to be home, with my father alive and well," he adds.

They immediately went home to Batangas and Romil asked the airline for information on who had saved his father.

"I knew that he gave me his calling card at the airport just before they left, but I lost it in my panic," Romil says.

He thought he would never get to personally thank his father's savior, not knowing that Lafferty was in another part of the Philippines looking for his father.

Fate finally stepped in and on Dec. 24, 2006, Lafferty got a call from Northwest Airlines and he was told that the person he saved was Romeo Silva and that he was alive and well and looking for him.

"That was the greatest Christmas present ever," Lafferty says, "to know that I was able to make a difference."

A few days after, Romil got a similar call and finally knew who he owed for his father's life.

And finally, through the kindness of P&G personnel and Northwest Airlines staff, Lafferty and Silva finally met for the first time at Lafferty's office in Makati City just after New Year.

"I cannot put into words how we felt when they met again for the first time since the incident," Romil says. "I really believe that the time stopped when they hugged each other tight with tears streaming down all of our faces."

They met again last month to celebrate Romeo Silva's 75th birthday.

"I feel so happy to be alive," the elder Silva says.

Lafferty is, too.

# Challenges of a 360° leader

LEADING UP IS THE 360° leader's greatest challenge.

We're accustomed to influence flowing from the top down, and, for that reason, leading up feels like running uphill. True enough, leading up requires extra effort.

To exert influence upon those in authority above us calls for boldness, respect and sacrifice. In the long run, the extra effort will distinguish you from the rest of the pack. Jack Welch calls this "getting out of the pile."

The following suggestions are ways to successfully catch the attention of those at the top.

### Lighten your leader's load

To lead up, increase your value by helping to lift your leader's load. Try to anticipate what your leader needs and wants. Occasionally, you may even approach your leader and ask, "What can I do for you today?"

Always remember: When the boss succeeds, the organization succeeds. Ultimately, you can't succeed if your boss fails.

Being a load lifter has its benefits. It demonstrates your dedication to the team, and displays gratitude for your position on the team.

In easing your leader's burden, you'll be noticed and valued. At the same time, you'll be playing a substantial role in helping the organization move forward.

Be sure to do your own job well before you concentrate on lifting your leader's load. If you drop your personal responsibilities, you'll drag your leader down rather than propping them up.

When you find a problem, provide a solution. If you only identify what is broken, you look no different than a complainer. Show initiative by repairing the problems you encounter.

Tell your leaders what they need to hear, not what they want to hear. In the words of President Dwight Eisenhower: "A bold heart is half the battle." Have the courage to speak your mind and confront difficult truths.

Go the second mile. Be willing to arrive early, stay late, and do more than your share of work.

**A LEADER'S WAY**

*John C. Maxwell*

Stand up for your leader whenever you can. Don't become party to backbiting or criticism. Speak highly of your leaders and diffuse the negativity others may show toward them.

Stand in for your leader whenever you can.

In the words of Colin Powell: "When we are debating an issue, loyalty means giving me your honest opinion, whether you think I'll like it or not. Disagreement, at this stage, stimulates me. But once a decision has been made, the debate ends. From that point on, loyalty means executing the decision as if it were your own."

There will be instances when you do not see eye to eye with your leader's decision. Respecting their authority by supporting them, even when you disagree, will give them the confidence to trust you.

### Principles 360° leaders practice

Leading your peers is no simple task. It's easy for an effective leader to lead followers, but leading across can be difficult—especially for highly productive people who might create feelings of jealousy or resentment among their peers.

Effective 360° leaders give their colleagues reasons to respect and follow them. Because they lead across successfully, they are able to assist the people beside them, profit the organization, and advance themselves.

Understand, practice and complete the leadership loop.

Leading peers is not a one-time event. It's an ongoing process. When leading across, the temptation is to try to take the lead too quickly. Taking shortcuts or cheating the process will erode your respect from others rather than gaining influence with them.

### Leadership loop

Caring—Take an interest in people.

People always move toward anyone who increases them and away from anyone who decreases them.

Learning—Get to know people.

Invest the time to understand the values that motivate your fellow leaders.

Appreciating—Respect people.

Find and encourage the strengths unique to each of your colleagues. Assume they have your best interests in mind, and be open to their ideas and concerns.

Contributing—Add value to people.

Few activities add to a leader's credibility like the dedication to add value to the people around them—especially when the leader is neither obligated to add value nor receiving direct benefit from doing it. Adding value to peers lets them know that you are on their side and are cheering for them to win.

Verbalizing—Affirm people.

To affirm signifies to make firm. An affirmation is a statement of truth you make firm by repetition. Affirmations enable others to believe in their dreams. For people to reach their potential, their dreams must become more real than their doubts.

Leading—Influence people.

Understand, enlarge and empower those who are leading beside you.

Succeeding—Win with people.

When you succeed with people, you gain opportunities to influence even more people. The leadership loop completes a cycle and begins anew. As additional people enter your life, you must again choose to take an interest in them, get to know them, etc.

*(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please 813-2049/2732.)*

# SMFI launches Donate-A-Book

SM FOUNDATION INC. LAUNCHED ITS Donate-A-Book program for the year at SM City San Lazaro to encourage everyone to donate books and cash recently. Several publishing companies such as the Philippine Bible Society, WS Pacific Corp., Amos Books Inc., Bookmark Inc., Adarna House Inc., JTW Corp. and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, bookstores and private individuals have pledged to support this year's Donate-A-Book Project.

The program was conceptualized to address the problem of book shortage in public schools and to cultivate interest in reading in beneficiary communities. Books and other reading materials that will be gathered will be distributed to public schools and libraries. Cash donations, on the other hand, will help improve the facilities and educational materials of DSWD-run daycare centers.

This decade-old campaign has collected 2.4 million books. Over 10,000 public elementary and high schools, provincial and barangay libraries as well as daycare centers have benefited from the program.

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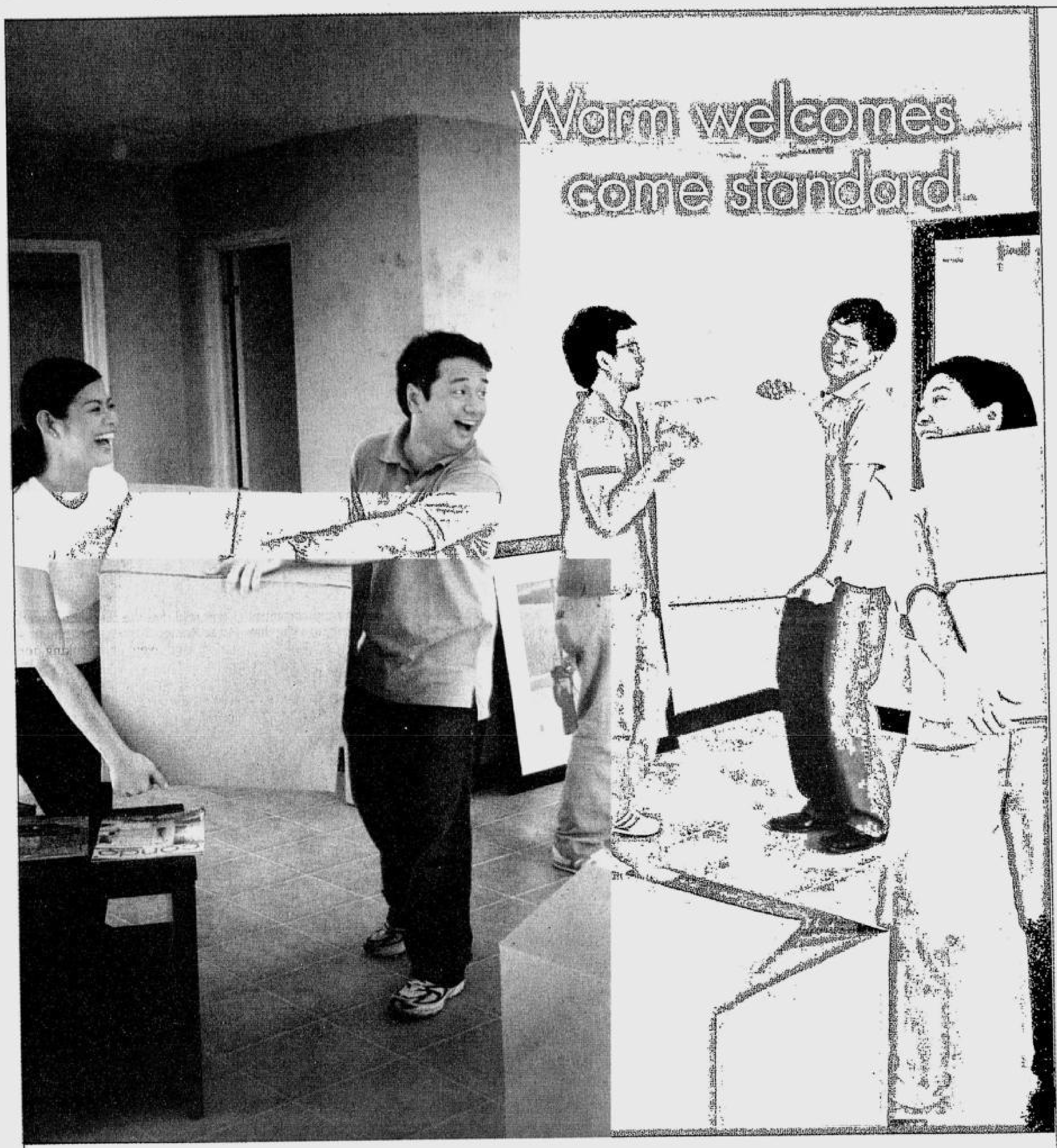
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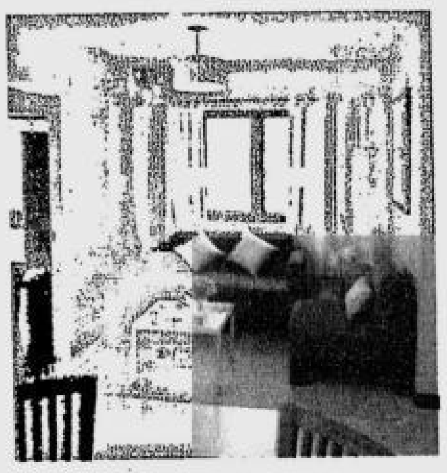

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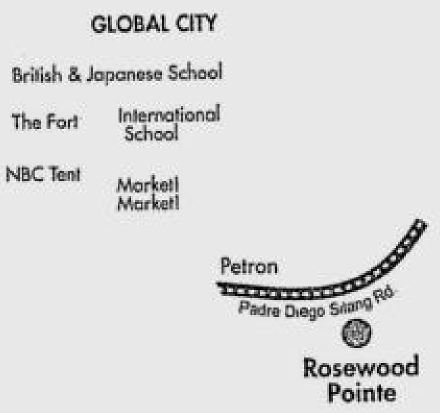

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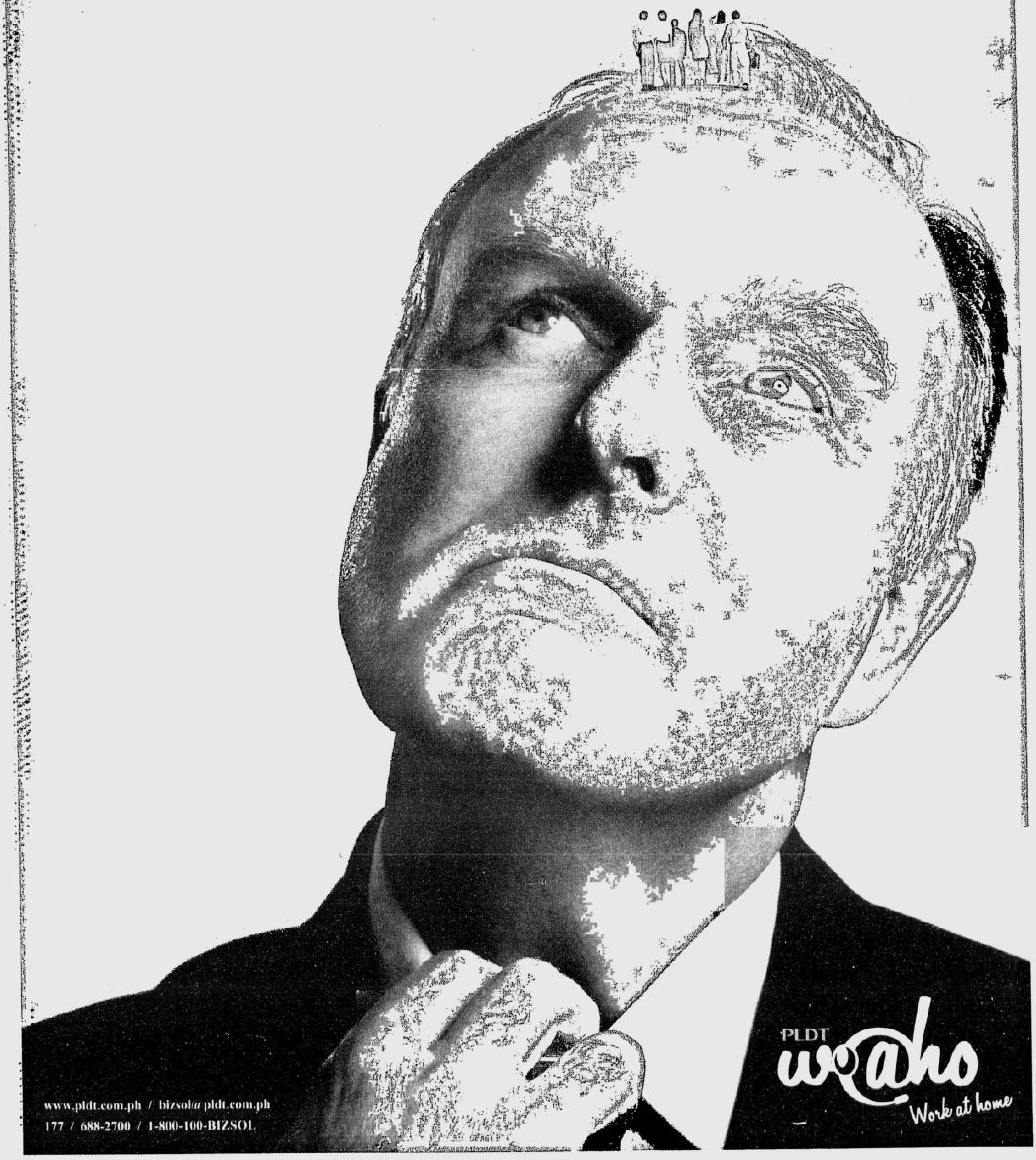

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# Managing a company on toes

BALLERINA'S mornings are spent studying.

## Lisa Macuja learns ropes of running a venture via long distance

**By Margie Quimpo-Espino**

THE POPULAR NOTION IS THERE IS NO money in art.

History has shown this with the likes of Van Gogh dying poor and miserable, never tasting the fruits of his priceless creations.

But there are a few smart ones who have lived to enjoy the fruits of their work, such as Picasso—whose latter years' work seemed more like play than real attempts at creating works of art—yet still managed to command handsome selling prices.

Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, the country's most popular ballerina, wants to be a bit of Picasso.

She tries to do this even as she continues to battle criticisms hurled against her for trying to give her dancers more than pauper's pay and accepting "jobs" that traditionalists would frown upon.

But she knows that, ultimately, an artist has to learn to manage a dance company the way managers manage a business entity.

To equip herself with this know-how, Lisa enrolled in a distance learning program from a school in the United States.

AFTERNOONS are spent teaching, rehearsing and dancing.

In a few months, the 40-something ballerina will graduate, with honors, from the University of Phoenix with a degree in Business Management.

Her reason for studying is simple enough.

Living with the principle that you "lead, guide and nurture by example," Lisa, then a new mom to first baby Missy and a surrogate mom to her husband's daughter, Sasha, who was entering college, felt she did not have the moral authority to require her children to study as she herself did not finish college.

Ballet took up practically all of her time. She never had the chance to get a degree.

Distance learning was her best option, so at first, she took up a two-year Associates in Arts, General Studies from UOP. She finished this in four years.

She found herself missing school, so she next set her sights on getting a management degree seeing her company was exhibiting growing pains and she had to map out a strategy for expansion.

Helping her a lot in business are her classes in psychology and human resource management.

She says learning from her human motivation class for example "helped me motivate dancers. There are theories I could immediately practice and apply."

Lisa describes Ballet Manila as a dance company that is still a "mom and pop" operation but "is getting bigger."

At present, the president of Ballet Manila is her dad, Cesar, while the treasurer is her mom, Susan. But with exposure to management systems and business cases daily, Lisa is working to create systems within the company.

And she says that despite the criticisms thrown her way about Ballet Manila being too much of a business, she states "I am not commercial."

She knows she can earn so much more if she offers more popular courses like Pilates, Yoga, tae kwon do but she says she remains focused on ballet.

What she acknowledges is that a dance company needs money to survive and more money means a bigger contribution

MANAGING/ B2-2

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# Pilipinas Shell complies with BioFuels Law

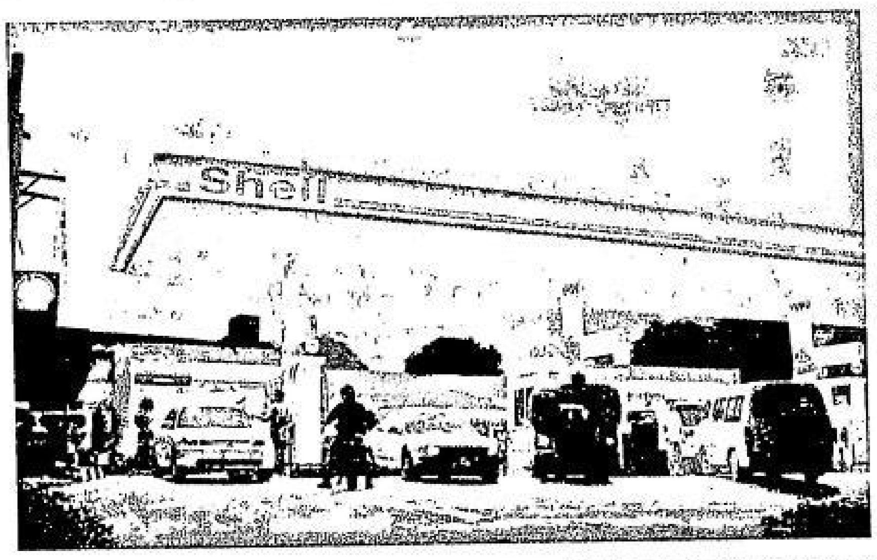
## *Shell Diesoline Ultra with one percent bio-diesel now available at Shell stations*

Manila, Philippines (06 May 2007) - Shell, the world's largest distributor of transport biofuels, supports the Biofuels Act of 2006 through its compliance with the minimum one percent biodiesel mandate in its diesel engine fuels using coconut methyl ester (CME).

With over 30 years of experience with alternative fuels in countries such as USA, Brazil, Sweden, and Thailand, Shell believes that the use of such fuels is part of its commitment to Sustainable Development in the Philippines and around the world. Shell is working towards securing sustainable biofuel components that meet critical social, environmental and economic criteria including internationally recognized human and worker rights and the preservation of protected areas or valuable ecosystems.

"With over 30 years of marketing and distribution experience with biofuels through other Shell operating companies in the world, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation believes that the use of such fuels is not only in compliance with the law, but also as part of its commitment to Sustainable Development," Pilipinas Shell Country Chairman Edgar Chua said. "We would like to congratulate the Philippine Government for this milestone in the local fuels industry," he further added.

Pilipinas Shell tapped on this global experience & leadership, allowing it to be the first major oil company in the Philippines to launch its ethanol blended gasoline, Shell Super Unleaded E10, in May 2006. Today, Pilipinas Shell continues to leverage on their experience to support the government's mandate of having a minimum one percent biodiesel blend in all its diesel engine fuels sold in the country. It is because of its experience, knowledge, technical innovation and leadership in biofuels that Shell's biofuels customers around the world have come to consistently trust Shell.



Shell Diesoline Ultra with biodiesel is now available for motorists at Shell Stations nationwide.

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# Bringing the native flavor closer to the metro

**By Miko Morelos**

THERE ARE PERHAPS 81 WAYS TO prepare *longganisa*, with each province boasting it has the best.

City dwellers, however, have a slim chance of tasting these longganisa varieties because the provinces are so far away.

Entrepreneur John Sison of Sonsi Corp., thus, thought of bringing these and other specialties—such as longganisa from Lucban and Vigan and bangus (milkfish) from Dagupan—closer to the city through the supermarkets.

"My goal is to be able to make hard-to-find specialty products from different provinces available here in the city," Sison says.

He says that because these longganisa varieties are hard to find, the customary practice is to ask someone going to Cebu, Davao or other places to bring home these products.

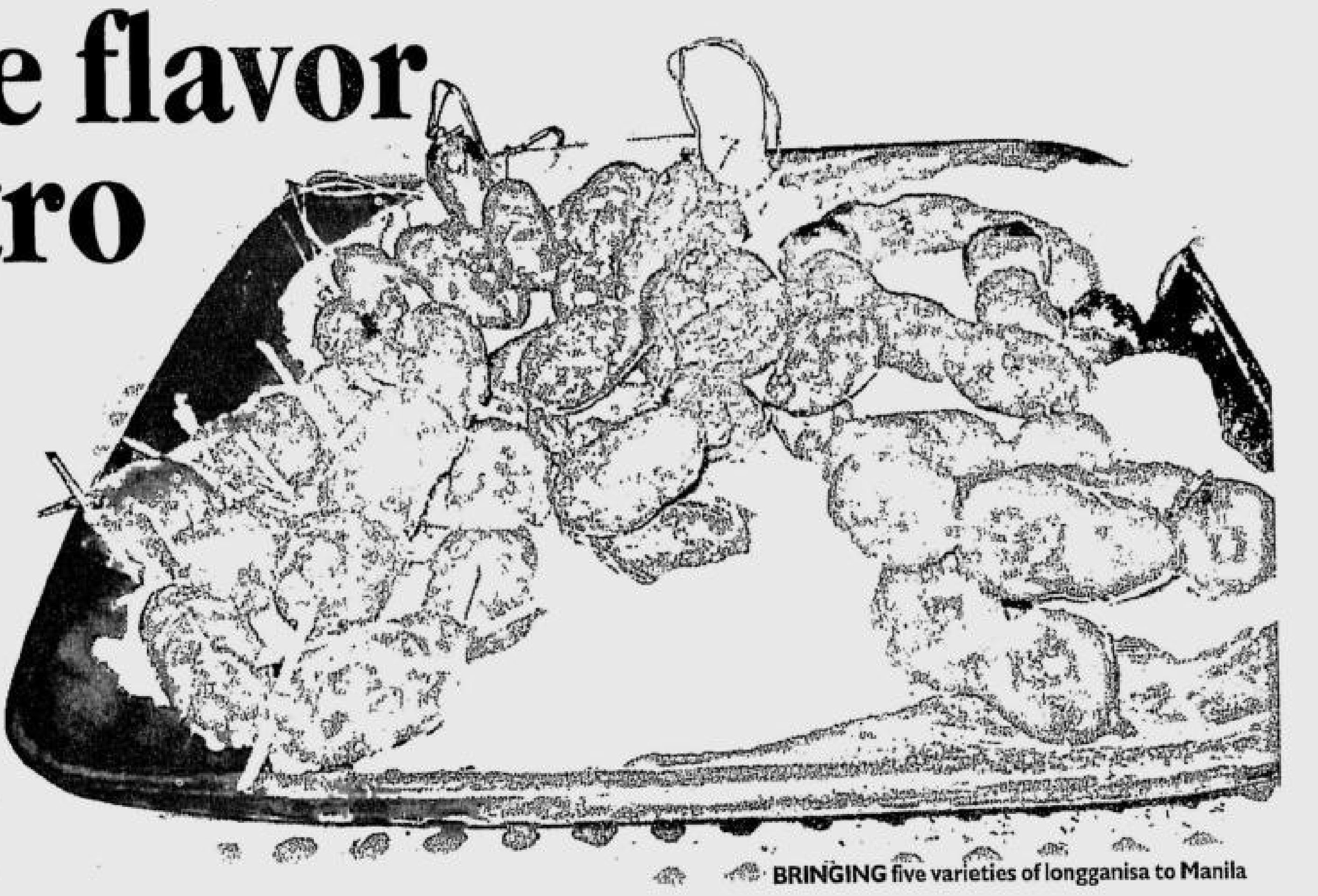
Sonsi Corp., created by Sison in 2001, has so far brought to the metro some five varieties of longganisa.

Sison says he has been hopping from one province to another, looking for authentic longganisa to repack and sell here in the city.

He assures customers of the authenticity of his products, saying he personally checks and tastes the longganisas before making any purchase.

"I source the products myself and one of my guidelines for sourcing products is the taste and quality of the product," Sison says. "I also conduct focus group discussions with friends and my existing clients and I do interviews to find out if there is a market for such products."

The business, Sison relates, has a "fishy" beginning.



**BRINGING** five varieties of longganisa to Manila

**BONELESS** bangus from Dagupan starts a venture.

Sison says he started off selling packs of boneless *daing na bangus*, which he buys all the way from Dagupan. The Pangasinan town is famous for its bangus products, including its version of daing na bangus.

He recalls going from place to place, offering to supply canteens and cafeterias with his daing.

"I walked into different restaurants, club houses and villages to solicit my initial clientele. I still deliver to this day," Sison says.

He adds that some of his clients include Valle Verde Country Club, Masas and Cena restaurants in Greenbelt, the Senate and House of Representatives' cafeteria, Floating Island restaurant in Makati Medical Center, and the Department of Tourism and the GSIS canteens.

But his big break came in August 2002 while he was waiting for his products to be received at the receiving area of Rustan's Supermarket in Harrison Plaza.

It was then when he accidentally bumped into Shopwise president Bienvenido Tantoco III.

"He (Tantoco) was inspecting the branch when I met him," Sison says. "He asked me what was I supplying Rustan's."

Upon learning that Sison was supplying packs of boneless bangus, Tantoco asked him to also supply Shopwise.

Sison was elated considering that his product had once been rejected by Shopwise.

"It was a blessing for me since Shopwise eventually took over Rustan's in 2006," Sison says.

Shopwise remains Sonsi Corp.'s biggest client, and Sison now supplies the supermarket chain not just with bangus but also an average at least 4,000 dozen longganisa packs a month.

He is not about to stop looking for more products to supply the city.

"I will also soon introduce the Bangus Lumpiang shanghai which will also come from Dagupan," Sison says. "It will retail at around P100 a pack so it will really be affordable for everyday food."

"I am still in the process of bringing in Bagnet from [the] Ilocos [Region] and longganisas from Tugegarao, Cabanatuan and La Union which I already tasted," he adds.

# Pharma firms: Go back to basics to beat rising medical costs

MULTINATIONAL AND LOCAL PHARmaceutical companies, particularly members of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) are urging the public to get back to basics and observe proper diet and nutrition to beat rising costs of hospitalization and medication.

According to PHAP, "Most chronic diseases are largely preventable diseases. And what better way to prevent diseases than through a well-balanced diet and proper nutrition coupled with regular exercise. There are also a lot of choices for health maintenance such as vitamins, supplements, vaccinations and preventive medicines or treatments. Prevention is still the most cost-effective, affordable and wise approach to avoid medical expenses."

"Changes in diets and lifestyles—the sedentary lifestyle and increased consumption of alcohol and foods with high fat content, have caused significant changes in people's health and nutrition. Consequently, this also considerably increased incidence of diseases such as diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases and hypertension especially among poor people in developing countries," cites PHAP.

In fact, these diseases have become significant causes of disability and premature death in both developing and newly developed countries, placing additional burdens on already overtaxed national health budgets.

Based on projections, by 2020, chronic diseases will account for almost 75% of all deaths worldwide and 71% of deaths will be due to heart diseases; 75% due to stroke and 70% of deaths due to diabetes will occur in developing countries. Heart diseases are already a major cause of death among Filipinos.

According to a report of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), "Nutrition is coming to the fore as a major modifiable determinant of chronic disease and alterations in diet have strong effects, both positive and negative, on health throughout life. Dietary adjustments may not only influence present health, but may determine whether or not an individual will develop such diseases as cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes much later in life."

However, adds the report, "These concepts have not led to a change in policies or in practice. In many developing countries, food policies remain focused only on malnutrition and are not addressing the prevention of chronic diseases. The need for action to strengthen control and prevention measures to counter the spread of the chronic disease epidemic is now widely recognized by many countries, but the developing countries are lagging behind in implementing such measures."

PHAP further cites, "Disease prevention should be an important part of any integrated healthcare program. Access to cheap but nutritious food is just as important, if not more important, than access to cheap but safe medicines. An ounce of prevention is still better than a pound of cure."

According to WHO and FAO, there are renewed efforts to curb the rise in chronic diseases and it has become a high priority among international and bilateral agencies as well as the private sector and nongovernmental organizations or NGOs. These organizations have identified the need to prevent and control the increasing public health problems of chronic diseases by promoting appropriate diets and healthy lifestyles.

PHAP, as an umbrella organization of multinational pharmaceutical companies in the country, has joined worldwide efforts to combat the spread of chronic diseases through early detection and prevention. Its member companies individually also have their programs and campaigns.

"The statistics are really alarming, thus, government and the private sector should really unite their efforts and resources to address the problem. A good start is to ensure proper nutrition among the Filipino children. Despite efforts of the health department to ensure that foods daily consumed by Filipinos are enriched with vitamins and nutrients, malnutrition particularly among school-age children is still prevalent," cites PHAP.

Indeed, WHO cites that 60 percent of the 10.9 million deaths annually among children aged below five years in developing countries are associated with malnutrition. Iodine deficiency is named as the greatest single preventable cause of brain damage and mental retardation worldwide and is estimated to affect more than 700 million people, most of whom in less developed countries.

"Most of these deficiencies can be prevented through proper nutrition or adequate vitamin supplements. Malnutrition causes death, disability, mental and physical retardation. The public health implication of diet and nutrition-related diseases is indeed getting more serious," adds PHAP.

In the joint report of WHO and FAO, it is recommended that preventive strategies should address both dietary risks for chronic diseases and other risks such as tobacco use and these should be comprehensive covering maternal and child health extending to school and workplace environments.

Furthermore, it cited, governments need to work together with the private sector, healthcare bodies, consumer groups, academe, research community and other NGOs to ensure sustained progress of its endeavors and strategies.

# Managing a company on toes

From page B2-1

**HUSBAND** Fred would occasionally share his insights.

PHOTOS BY ROGERMARGALLO

**LISA** values artistic freedom.

to the development of dance in the country.

But she is also the first to admit that there is huge business potential in dance, especially with the reputation she has established.

"I know that someday there will be a Ballet Manila Naga, or something ... But right now I am enjoying my artistic independence. I can choose projects and make plans without having plans vetoed by a board of directors," she says.

Lisa knows that her school, and especially her name, can be easily turned into a business—a franchise even.

But she says the problem here is that her teachers are also dancers. Anytime there is an invitation to perform locally or abroad, the company takes off, sometimes for six months.

Once she puts up branches, the dancers will be restricted because they cannot just leave their commitments to the students.

Last year however, Lisa created a pilot project for business expansion.

"We had a lecture demo at St. Jude College and we got a lot of inquiries," she says. The school, which has a big population of Chinese-Filipinos, urged her to open a ballet class in the school which she did.

She got 40 enrollees—not a bad number for a ballet class.

Another limitation she faces is "I wear too many hats."

She feels that to be able to pursue expansion, she needs a business manager, which she does not have right now. And the company's financial limitations also restrict her from hiring a good one.

**LESSONS** on human motivation help her encourage her dancers.

She also has one other concern.

"When I was just Lisa Macuja, all my letter (requests) for sponsorships got affirmative replies. When I became Elizalde, the replies would be 'thank you but we have no budget at this time,'" she says. "This is not a personal whim that I fund with Fred. We would not be able to exist without Fred's (companies') subsidy," she says but adds that she needs support from others, too.

Elizalde's firms such as MBC provide use of the Aliw Theatre and perks for those who watch the ballets such as free rides in Star City.

The BM studios are in Elizalde's huge residence in Pasay City.

BM has about 40 scholars whom she provides training and allowance.

Each scholar costs about P25,000 a year. For now Lisa relies on some friends and a handful of corporate sponsors, who support these scholars, many of whom come from lower income families.

When she started, there was a dearth of male dancers so she focused on recruiting and training males. Today she says it is becoming more difficult to maintain females because many of them get distracted.

Female dancers usually come from middle to upper income families. But when they reach a certain age, other interests attract them and they quit, leaving a dearth of ballerinas.

Lisa adds that over the years, there has been a decline in the student population of her school partly because of the increasing costs of the fees and the waning interests of the students.

"But it does not yet alarm me," the feisty dancer says.

Recently, she held Storytellers on Toes for her sponsors and prospective donors, which generated interest and commitments for her company.

Lisa Macuja-Elizalde's dance has yet to reach its finale. She just hopes that the last act will not be the final one—that ballet in the country will be there for good. And this she knows can only be done with dedicated dancers and support from the audience and the sponsor.

# Camarines Sur: New kid in eco-tourism block

## CWC chosen as 2008 International Water Ski Federation Cable Wakeboard World Championships venue

006 from the previous year

**PART** of the 4-ha cable ski park

CAMARINES SUR, LOCATED IN the southeastern part of the country, has emerged as a prime sports and eco-tourism destination.

Figures from the Camarines Sur Tourism Office show tourist arrivals in the province went up four-fold from 9,430 in January 2006 to 39,983 by December of the same year.

Tourist arrivals also doubled in 2006 from the previous year, from 144,252 to 258,608. Foreign tourists and *balikbayans* account for approximately 10 percent of the increase.

The province can be reached by a seven- to eight-hour land trip from Manila to Naga City or to the capital of Pili, or through a forty-five-minute flight from Manila to Naga Airport on a B737 plane.

Because of the influx of tourists, business is picking up in many of the hotels and pension houses in Naga City as well as resorts in other towns.

A new hotel has been built in Naga while existing ones are expanding. Room rates at hotels in the city range from P1,800 to P2000 a day for four persons and a room at less than P1,000 a day that could accommodate two to four persons in pension houses.

Outside Naga, among the new favorites is the Mansion Suites at Pili inside the sprawling provincial capitol complex, which was officially the Governor's Mansion before it was converted into a hotel with modern amenities. The cuisine is a mix of continental, traditional Filipino and Bicolano.

Room rates are reasonable—considering the modern amenities including free Wi-Fi access, as well as excellent service, spacious and comfortable accommodations—ranging from P2,200 for the De Luxe Double rooms to P4,000 for the Presidential Suite.

From the Mansion Suites is a brief two-minute shuttle to the CamSur Watersports Complex (CWC), the latest attraction of the province, and one of the main reasons behind the tourism boom.

It has a 4-ha cable ski park with a lake for wakeboarding and skiing, a large swimming pool, cabanas, a clubhouse and bar, spa service, Internet Wi-Fi service, and other recreation facilities. Bright stadium lights have been installed around the lake for night riding.

An added attraction is that it has the majestic Mt. Isarog as its backdrop. The cable ski park is now the most modern in the world, with a six-point cable system.

Conveniently located on one side of the lake, there is a variety of newly built accommodations with modern amenities such as air-conditioning and toilet and bath—cabanas at P1,250 per day for two, with a choice of a queen-size or two single beds; and, one-room trailer houses at P1,000 per day for two, or two-room trailer houses at P2,850 per day for four.

For honeymooners, the Villas del Rey located near the Eco Village inside the provincial capitol complex, has 12 secluded honeymoon villas with complete amenities at P5,000 per day. Each unit has a king-size bed and a Jacuzzi.

Last Holy Week, aside from the veteran riders, there were so many guests who wanted to go knee and wakeboarding that there were two lines leading to the launch ramp.

Fortunately, there were many beginners who couldn't go far before falling off their boards so the queue moved fast. Before you ride, the trainers brief you on the basic techniques and a flotation vest and helmet are required.

Unlimited use of the pool per head is P150 per adult and P130 per child below 10 years old. A one-hour massage is worth P350. Whole-day rate for wakeboarding is P600+, inclusive of use of wakeboard and training, while rental of vest and helmet is P140.

The CWC opened in May 2006 as part of the Kaogma Festival, dubbed as the "hottest festival" in the country, with rated foreign riders from Europe, the United States and Asia flocking to the province to try out the cable ski park.

Many were all praises for the CWC, and their comments are now immortalized below their photos in action that now adorn one wall at CWC.

Among them are: Donald Shebrick, US: "It has the best conditions and best cable set-up in the world!! I like the perfect length of the cable and its six corners and the obstacles…it's a lot of fun to ride there!!!!; and Daniel Fetz, Austria: "It's mind blowing to know that there is a somewhere out there so perfect in every little way. This place is AMAZING!!!"

The CWC has been chosen as the venue of the 2008 International Water Ski Federation (IWSF) Cable Wakeboard World Championships, which is considered as the world cup of wakeboarding.

Another attraction is the 5-ha deer farm, located at Ocampo town 4 km up Mt. Isarog, less than an hour's drive from Pili.

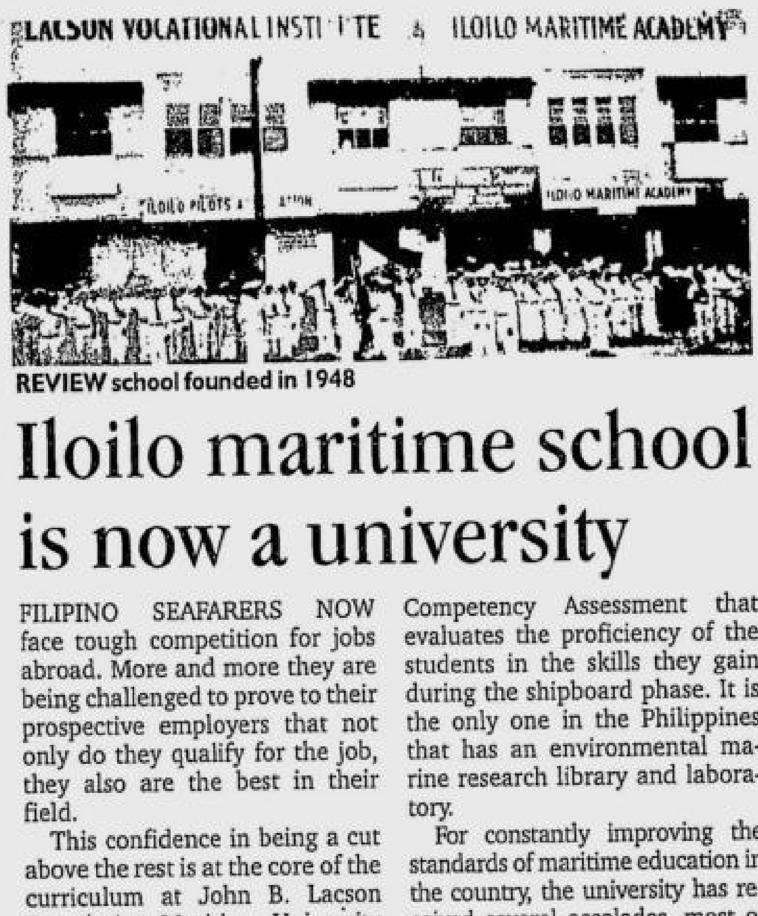
It is stocked with four hundred heads of various breeds, such as Blackbuck Antelope, Fallow Deer, Chital Deer, Red Deer and Elk. It was started late in 1996 with only 60 heads from Australia.

Those who want to go island-hopping can take a one-and-a-half hour drive from Pili to the port of San Jose, then another hour-and-a-half boat ride to Caramoan. This is a 15-minute jeepney ride to the Casa Roa Hostel, a spacious old house converted by the Roa family into a bed and breakfast lodge (room rates range from P700 to P1,500).

The hostel has a rustic ambiance, and staying there is like staying in a relative's house because the staff treats you like family. From the hostel is a 30-minute jeepney ride to Gota beach, where one can hire a pump boat for P1,500 per day to go island hopping.

The islands at the Caramoan Peninsula have pristine white sand beaches and coves, perfect for swimming and snorkeling. Snorkeling gear can be rented in Naga City before going to San Jose at P600 a day per set (face mask, snorkel and fins).

Camarines Sur is optimistic that even more local and foreign tourists will come to the province for that much-needed break.



**REVIEW** school founded in 1948

# Iloilo maritime school is now a university

FILIPINO SEAFARERS NOW face tough competition for jobs abroad. More and more they are being challenged to prove to their prospective employers that not only do they qualify for the job, they also are the best in their field.

This confidence in being a cut above the rest is at the core of the curriculum at John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University (JBLFMU), the Philippines and Southeast Asia's first maritime university. It is also a mission that chair emeritus Dr. Mary Lou Arcelo upholds in honor of her father, master mariner Juan Bautista-Lacson, who founded the university.

Lacson was a US Coast Guard lieutenant commander during World War II. In 1931, he built a review school for marine officers that would serve as prototype for the Iloilo Maritime Academy, a larger institution that he inaugurated in 1941 and which established Lacson as the pioneer in maritime education in the Visayas and Mindanao regions.

The school was converted into a foundation in 1985 and this year, the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) upgraded it as a university.

The university is also the only maritime education institution that maintains a maritime high school.

As a major supplier technical and professional manpower abroad, the John B. Lacson Maritime University has designed a set of curricula according to the standards set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

As quality education and training through instruction, research and extension have always been the primary goals of the institution, its curricula contain the competencies that IMO requires for personnel in support and operational levels up to management level.

John B. Lacson has also introduced a Center for Review and Competency Assessment that evaluates the proficiency of the students in the skills they gain during the shipboard phase. It is the only one in the Philippines that has an environmental marine research library and laboratory.

For constantly improving the standards of maritime education in the country, the university has received several accolades, most of which are groundbreaking. It is the first maritime education institution to have been accredited by the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACU-COA) in 1986 and granted a few years later the Autonomous Status by CHEd. Its Quality Management System earned plaudit from Malacañang, which gave it the Philippine Quality Award Recognition for Commitment to Quality Management last year, the only maritime school to have been awarded such. Internationally, it was awarded the Det Norske Veritas Certification, the first in the Philippines and third in the world to earn the distinction.

Strong linkages with local and international maritime companies and maritime education institutions also contribute to the long list of achievements of the institution. The faculty profile is among the best in the country as JBLFMU is the only school in the country to be a Phi Delta Kappa Chapter member. Thus, the competency of its graduates is highly endorsed by manning and shipping companies.

To date, graduates from the university account for 14 percent of the country's contribution to the global maritime workforce.

Filipino seafarers have been at the forefront of the diaspora with history backing this up with evidence that our mariners have been sailing the world's seas as far back as the galleon trade in the 16th century.

John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University has campuses in Iloilo City (Molo and in Arevalo) and Bacolod City.

# *Asians move to new towns, far from the madding crowds*

FOR A GLIMPSE OF HOW MILLIONS OF middle-class Asians could live in the future, take a look at Eastwood City, a self-contained office and apartment complex on the outskirts of Manila.

Its 9,000 inhabitants live in 40-story blocks, measure their commute in minutes, not hours, and never have to worry about power cuts or water stoppages. And at $175,000 for a 100 sq.m. home, they pay 10 percent less than they would in central Manila.

The shops are open until midnight and restaurants operate 24 hours, catering to shift-workers in the Eastwood offices of international firms such as Dell and IBM.

The 16-hectare estate, 8 kilometers from downtown Manila, is one of dozens of new towns that developers are building across Asia to lure an emerging middle class out of the region's overcrowded cities.

With homes, offices, schools and shops within walking distance of each other, these towns are attracting young couples and nuclear families keen to escape the traffic jams, crowded tenements, and creaking infrastructure of the big cities.

"What buyers want is easy access, schools, medical facilities," said Ang Wee Gee, an executive at Singapore's Keppel Land, one of the developers cashing in on this trend. "Whether it's Indians in Bangalore or the Chinese in Chengdu, they want the same things."

Keppel Land, Southeast Asia's third-largest property firm, has about 40 percent of its overseas investments in what it calls "townships" or "gated communities" such as Saigon Sports City, a 65-ha estate in Vietnam where a third of the land is set aside for sports facilities such as stadiums and swimming pools.

"Gated communities create a sense of exclusivity, of being a class above the rest," Ang said, adding that Keppel Land's townships attract a range of middle-income buyers including young professionals and retirees.

It's not just aspirations driving the demand. Thanks to the outsourcing boom in India and the Philippines, these townships are proliferating in cheap, out-of-town locations.

Housing projects by top Philippine property firms such as Ayala Land and Megaworld Corp. are custom-built for residents who work in round-the-clock call centers.

Megaworld's Eastwood City has its own back-up generators so that tenants such as Citibank aren't hit by Manila's notoriously frequent power outages.

The developer is spending $1.3 billion in the next decade to put up towns clustered around call centers.

Its largest such project, the 50-ha McKinley Hill estate, will have homes to suit the varying incomes of those who will live and work there, ranging from studios to three-story villas.

Just 20 km east of Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur, Sunway City has begun work on its 50-ha South Quay residential estate which will include a university campus, a hospital and an office complex.

The firm hopes that students, medical staff and even foreign retirees will buy into the project, which is built around an artificial lake on former tin-mining land.

For developers, townships can give double the investment returns of individual city-center apartment blocks, commanding a premium because of all the extra amenities provided.

In India, developers are targeting internal rates of return of as much as 30-40 percent and dozens of firms are queuing up to launch public share sales to fund new projects. These include a $2-billion offering from DLF Ltd., a major builder in Gurgaon, a new town of about 200,000 people on New Delhi's outskirts.

Gurgaon, with its bright white tower blocks, is thriving as one of India's main technology industry outsourcing hubs. But local newspapers report that the city is growing so fast that residents are starting to complain about problems they thought they had left behind—blackouts and water shortages.

It's not the only township with problems. Perhaps the most famous failure was Bangkok Land's Muang Thong Thani complex, originally advertised as "the Bangkok of the Future," near the Thai capital's old international airport.

The $1-billion project recorded rapid sales in the early 1990s but remained a ghost town, as most buyers were speculators swept up in a property bubble while the economy was booming.

The teachers and other civil servants who were expected to live in the rows of 30-story condominium blocks stayed away because the town was too far away from their workplaces.

By the time the Asian economic crisis hit in 1997, some 12,000 units were left unsold, and an attempt to persuade the government to move offices to the new town failed.

Architect Benjamin Wood, who turned a cluster of shabby houses in Shanghai into the trendy Xintiandi bar and restaurant district, said new towns only succeed if they get the right balance of homes, work and leisure.

"You need to mix it up, have million-dollar homes next to middle-income homes, and shop houses and offices," Wood said. "An individual needs a bit of chaos." *Reuters*

# Ingredients to success in the food industry

IT TAKES TAKES MORE THAN KNOWING how to whip up gastronomic delights in the kitchen to become a successful chef-entrepreneur.

A successful chef-entrepreneur is someone who is aware of the latest trends in the food industry and who is passionate to satisfy customers. Being a well-rounded chef-entrepreneur is one of the characteristics of a graduate from the Center for Culinary Arts, Manila (CCA, Manila). The school is the country's pioneer in formal culinary education having had more than a decade of producing "socially responsible" food industry practitioners.

Its students and graduates have reaped awards in culinary competitions while those who work abroad have been noted to meet and even exceed international placement standards. One of them is 27-year-old CCA, Manila graduate Chef Nikki Nicolas.

Chef Nikki is as one of the owners and manager of the kitchen of Sumo Sam, a Japanese restaurant in Shangri-La mall and Rockwell.

"Since my mom is a good cook, it was natural for me to be a cook. But I'm aware that knowing how to cook is not enough to make for a successful restaurant. So I initially enrolled at CCA, Manila," Chef Nikki recalled.

Chef Nikki said that CCA, Manila has helped her hone her innate talent in cooking and opened her eyes to the business aspect of it. As she put it, "the school laid the foundations for me to have a strong and excellent culinary background."

After graduation, entrepreneurship beckoned. Chef Nikki went on her first business venture in the restaurant industry by putting up Sumo Sam together with her brother and some close friends in 2005.

"We found a chef who has an extensive experience in Japanese cooking. I also learned a lot from him especially how to prepare Japanese sauces because the sauces were really challenging to make," said Chef Nikki. "It takes a lot of skill to perfect the taste."

Having learned the ropes, Chef Nikki is responsible for giving Sumo Sam's menu a "twist"—introducing to its diners' taste another level of Japanese cooking. Chef Nikki reveals that she experiments every now and comes up with a new taste and of course, pricing them accordingly.

In a few months time, another Sumo Sam branch will open at the food court of Trinoma Mall.

One of the key factors why Chef Nikki became a successful chef-entrepreneur is her flexibility. "Working with what you have, what you can afford, what will suit your restaurant are just some the things that one should be able to do when you are in this business."

As an advice to youngsters who are contemplating on whether to attend a culinary school or not, this is Chef Nikki's advice: "If you have the interest and passion for cooking, enroll at CCA, Manila because you can learn a lot not only from your professors but also from your classmates as well. Eventually, you can open a restaurant with your fellow classmates—that's one of my goals in the coming years."

For inquiries on the diploma or short courses, call 426-4825, or 426-4836 local 41. CCA, Manila campus is located at 287 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Application for June classes are ongoing.

EDNA Conopio, owner of Venn'z Footwear

# Liliw footwear clan keeps industry walking

**By Madonna Virola**
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

TAGAYTAY CITY—FOOTWEAR-making runs in the family of Edna Conopio, owner of Venn'z Footwear in Liliw, Laguna.

Her father, his nine siblings, their parents and around 15 cousins have their own footwear stores in Liliw.

But instead of competing with each other, they help each other grow their business, she says.

Conopio's own store would be invited to this city by Ephel Olivarez, daughter of the owner of the Olivarez Convention Center, to represent Liliw, famous for its footwear products.

These include the "*bakya*" (wooden sandal), wedge abaca with string, wedge abaca with rice beads, jap abaca with rice beads flat, wedge abaca strap, wedge abaca jap, step-in strap (flat) and Cleopatra-inspired sandals.

Conopio's clients include stores in Greenhills, St. Francis Square (at the back of Megamall), Glorietta in Makati and outlets in Fort Bonifacio and Alabang.

"There are also individuals who buy in bulk then sell to offices," says Conopio.

## Own boss

Conopio could have chosen to be employed. She holds a degree in banking and finance, and has worked with the Liliw Rural Bank and is a top sales agent at Philam Life Insurance.

But she promised herself that she would no longer be an employee.

"I don't like to have a boss, I want exposure and to express my talent," says Conopio, adding that she loves to draw and design.

Like most entrepreneurs, Conopio started small in 1985 with three dozens slippers and a capital of P5,000.

She then raised the capital to P200,000.

"It took me a big amount of courage, traveling to different places like Palawan, Bohol and Hong Kong for exposure and networking," she says.

Her unique designs attract people to buy, giving her the biggest sale of P100,000 in one day last year.

Conopio usually sells wholesale and when there are retailers, she gives the same price as for wholesale.

"I don't like haggling with customers," she says. "I work hard, no wasting of time and I've overcome shyness."

Recently she was busy preparing for the "Tsinelas Festival," an attraction in Liliw town.

Conopio appreciates being a member of the Liliw Footwear Association, which has more than 100 members because of its support system.

"We're about 70-80 stores along the street going to the municipal hall," she says.

## Lessons

Conopio says her business suffered a setback when someone borrowed up to P500,000 and ran away with it.

She was forced then to work again with Philam.

But while she was doing good at Philam, her two children did not like her out-of-town trips, so she decided to go back to her footwear business.

She used her earnings from Philam, where she worked for five years, to revive her business.

Now, Cornopio has about 30 part-time workers who, she says, can earn as much as P1,000 a week each if they work hard.

She makes sure her workers are paid on time.

Some of her workers who learned the business from working with her have also put up their own stores.

Cornopio does not mind, as it has become part of Liliw's tradition.

Aside from her shoe factory and store, she put up a restaurant of foods wrapped in banana leaves.

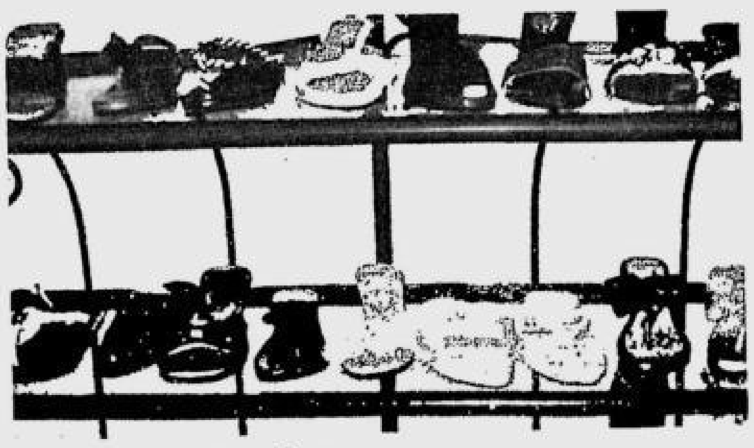
"Native products are the 'in thing' since I started [in the business]; both local and foreign buyers patronize them," she says.

With both footwear and food stores, Cornopio implements the lesson she learned: Give no credit.

"We have free delivery. After one month and the products are unsold, we replace them because they can be sold in other places," she says.

She's not bent on exporting because she finds the Philippines a good enough market.

"I hope this lasts for life and my children will continue it. I'm dreaming for more outlets in different places," she says.



VENN'Z Footwear's products

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# *Krispy Kreme to open drive-thru outlet*

KRISPY KREME, AMERICA'S MOST-LOVED DOUGHNUT, builds its first drive-thru outlet in Asia and its first free-standing store in the Philippines at the Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan. Krispy Kreme Greenhills is the third outlet in the Philippines. It is expected to open on the last week of June. Present during the groundbreaking rites were Carolyn Salud, The Real American Doughnut Company Inc. managing director; Sharon Fuentebella, board member; Mely Vargas, executive director of White Cross Charity; and Jim Fuentebella, chair.

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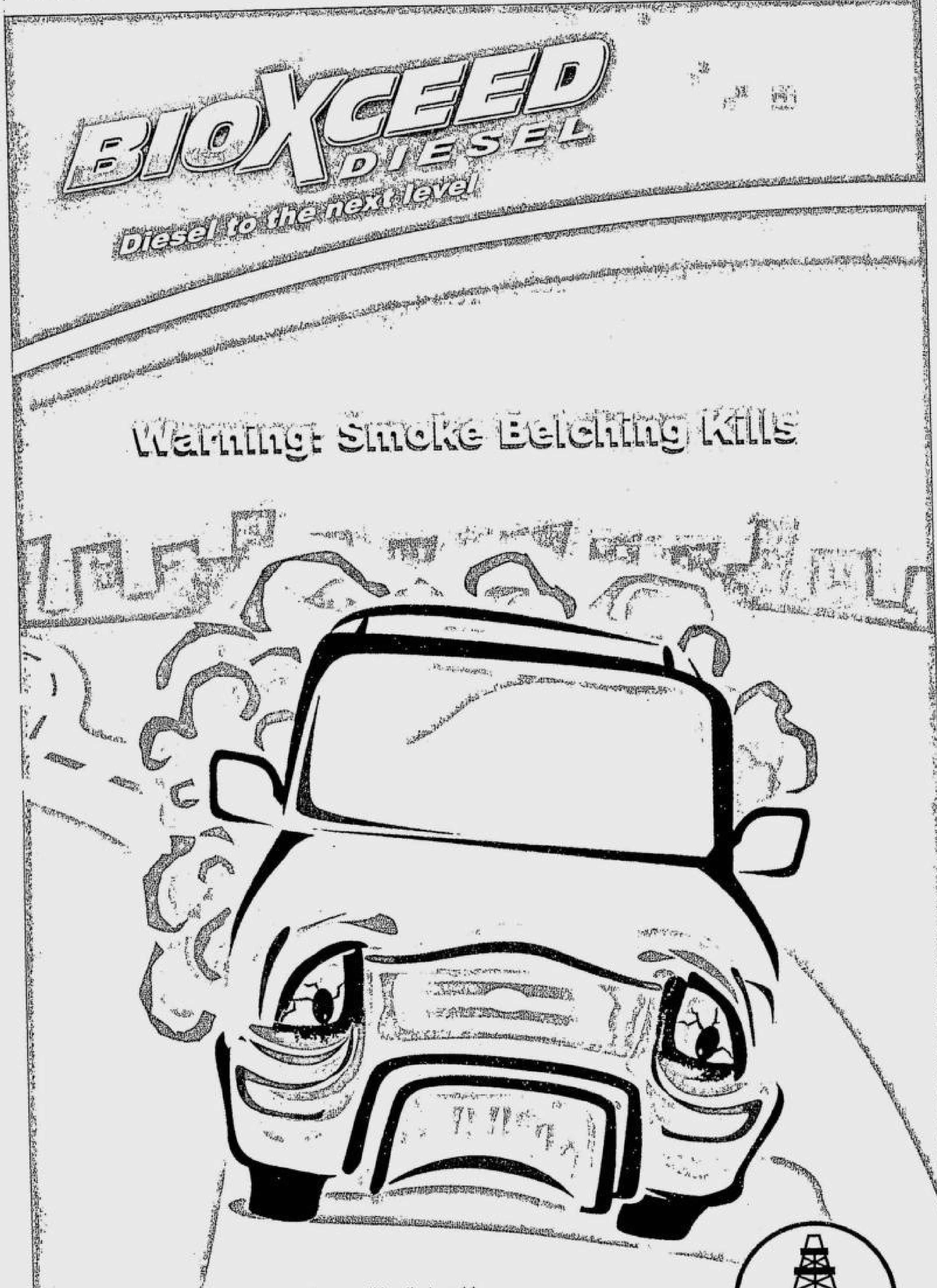
SEAOIL WELCOMES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIOFUELS ACT OF 2006.



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- P. Tuazon, Quezon City
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- Bagong Ilog, Pasig City
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- Dasol, Pangasinan
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- San Antonio, Nueva Ecija
- Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija
- Talavera, Nueva Ecija
- Guimba, Nueva Ecija
- Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
- Alicia, Isabela
- Ilagan, Isabela
- Paombong, Bulacan
- San Miguel, Bulacan

SOUTH LUZON
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- Balayan, Batangas
- Calatagan, Batangas
- Lemery, Batangas
- Lipa, Batangas
- Nasugbu, Batangas
- San Juan, Batangas
- San Luis, Batangas
- San Pascual, Batangas
- Tuy, Batangas
- Silang, Cavite
- Indang, Cavite
- Alfonso, Cavite
- Alabang, Muntinlupa
- Merville, Parañaque
- Sucat, Parañaque
- Calamba, Laguna
- Siniloan, Laguna
- Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Lucena, Quezon
- Sampaloc, Quezon
- Tiaong, Quezon
- Irosin, Sorsogon
- OAS, Sorsogon
- Polangi, Albay
- Binangonan, Rizal
- Cainta, Rizal

VISAYAS
- Barangay Bata, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
- Circumferential Road, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
- JJ Gonzaga Subdivision, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
- Lopez-Jaena, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
- Tangub, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
- Victorias City, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

MINDANAO
- Tumo, Dipolog City
- Galas, Dipolog City
- Sibulad, Dipolog City
- Jose Dalman, Zamboanga del Norte
- Labason, Zamboanga del Norte
- Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte
- Roxas, Zamboanga del Norte
- Salug, Zamboanga del Norte
- Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur
- Bitinan, San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur
- Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur
- Molave, Zamboanga del Sur
- Pitogo, Zamboanga del Sur
- Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay
- Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay
- Olutanga, Zamboanga Sibugay
- Titay, Zamboanga Sibugay
- Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental
- Calamba, Misamis Occidental
- Plaridel, Misamis Occidental
- Lam-an, Ozamis City
- Maningkol, Ozamis City
- Bolatok, Pagadian City
- Tawagan Sur, Pagadian City
- Talic, Oroquieta City
- Balo-i, Lanao del Norte
- Maranding, Lala, Lanao del Norte
- Camague, Iligan City
- Hinaplanon, Iligan City
- Gadungan, Marawi City
- Malampay, Marawi City

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**DROOL-WORTHY 1966** Jaguar XKE owned by Michael Aguilar is best Late Golden Era class

# Expensive toys for big boys

**By Alex Y. Vergara**

KEEPING A CONVENTIONAL car from looking old and rundown is a tall order. But keeping a classic car as authentic as the day it rolled out of the factory 50 years ago is harder and costlier.

Vintage cars have become a hobby for such old-car enthusiasts as Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Joel Jimenez, Alex Claudio, Jay Aldeguer, Michael Aguilar and Manny Dimaculangan. And these big boys didn't pass up the chance to show off their expensive toys by joining the Concours d'Elegance at the poolside of the Sofitel Philippine Plaza.

With the Manila Bay and its famed sunset as backdrop, the event was an unlikely mix of sun, sea and gleaming cars—from Jaguars to Ferraris, Mercedes Benzes to Porsches, Corvettes to Mustangs—that culminated in a black-tie dinner among proud hobbyists and their collaborators.

In keeping with tradition, the club's overwhelmingly male members were asked to come either in tuxedos or tweed jackets with matching bow ties. Some played the role of dandy to the hilt by sporting either fedoras or newsboy caps.

Organized by the Manila Sports Car Club to coincide with its 40th year as an organization, the event provided close to 30 enthusiasts a venue to show off their prized possessions. Their efforts didn't go unnoticed, as most of

EXPENSIVE/ C2

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"For stress relief, there's nothing like the ₱80,000 yearly savings we get from Sun."
*Dr. Emma Guerrero, President, Bioessence*

**"Business is easy when you're not worried about cost."**

Running a skincare, spa and slimming treatment center like Bioessence takes more than knowing the latest dermatological techniques—it takes a lot of business sense.

That's why Dr. Guerrero considers herself more a business woman than a dermatologist. What started out as a two-bed clinic in Davao City in 1994 is now a thriving enterprise with 32 branches spread out all over the country.

To keep on top of nationwide operations, Dr. Guerrero relies on Sun. "We switched to Sun because of the affordable rates," she explains, "you don't have to pay per call. It's because of unlimited call and text."

With Sun, daily operations run smoothly and at much lower cost. "We used to fax daily sales reports, but now, we just pay minimum regular rates and send it through text," she shares. Meetings are also set through text messages, making coordination a lot easier.

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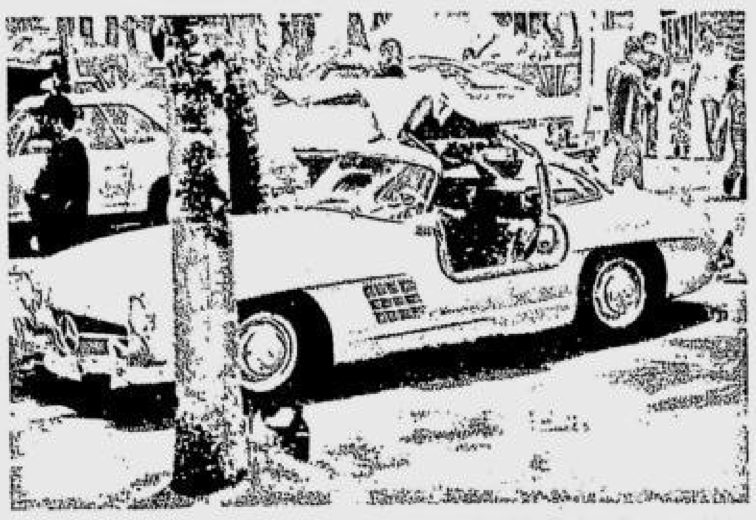
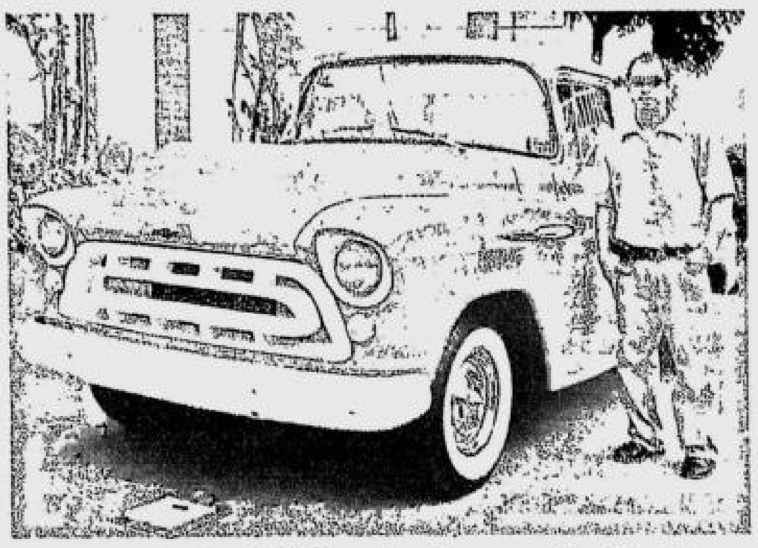
*see leaflets for details Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-152, Series of 2007

MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds

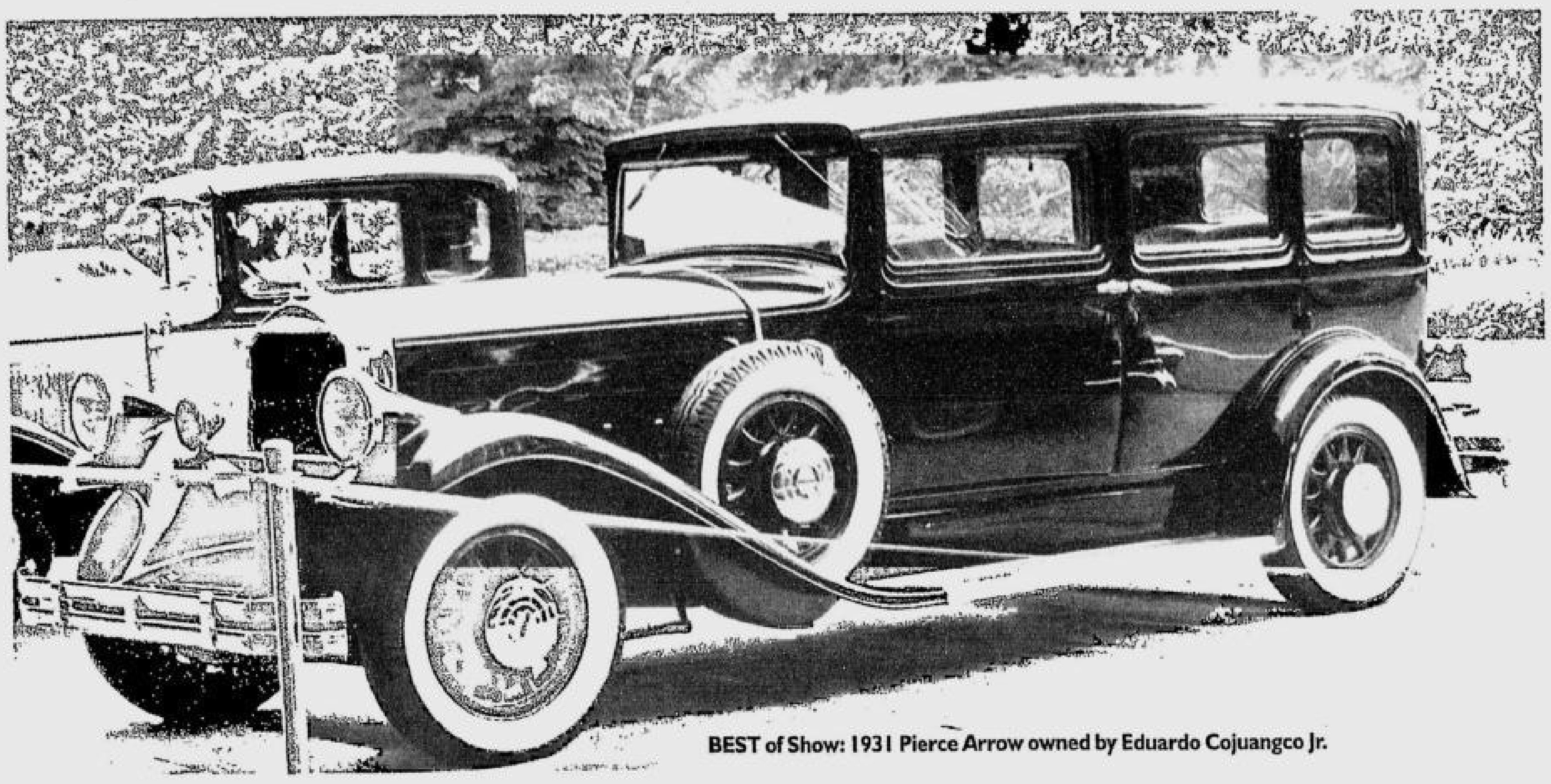


GM'S Choice: 1957 Mercedes Benz 300SL aka "Gullwing," owned by Ramon Torres

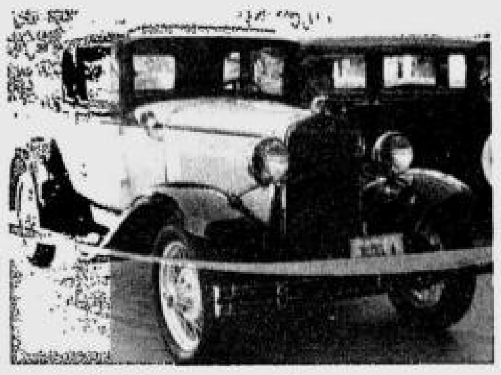


**CLASSIC** best in class 1957 Chevrolet pickup owned by Alfred Perez

**EARLY** Golden Era best in class 1964 Austin Cooper owned by Toti Scarella



**BEST** of Show: 1931 Pierce Arrow owned by Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.



With the Manila Bay sunset as backdrop, the Concours d'Elegance is an unlikely mix of sun, sea and gleaming cars—from Jaguars to Ferraris, Mercedes Benzes to Porsches, Corvettes to Mustangs

# Expensive toys for big boys

From page C1

them went home with special honors in various categories.

An absent Cojuangco received top honors when his 1931 Pierce Arrow bested all other vehicles to win the Pre-War Class and Best in Show.

"It was a unanimous decision," said Hong Kong-based Ian Foster, one of the judges. "Everything about that car is perfect. It managed to look the way it was in the 1930s."

Apart from being avid collectors themselves, judges like Foster and Graham Allen have done extensive research on vintage cars.

According to them, visible signs of rust and haphazard paint jobs are just two of the many concerns a vintage car owner must attend to. Not only does the car need to look good, it should also be in tiptop running condition. That's why not a few proud owners make it a point to drive their pride and joy even if only on weekends.

"For shows I judge in Hong Kong," said Allen, "I ask owners to drive their cars to the venue. I also make it a point to check if the lights, wipers and windows are all functioning."

Most important, however, all the parts that make up the car, including its engine and under chassis, should be as authentic as possible. Restoring a vintage car to the point of overdoing it (using chrome, for example, when one shouldn't) or incorporating parts belonging to a different period can also cost its owner precious points in a contest.

During a previous judging, for instance, Foster had to deduct points on an impeccably maintained 1970s Chevy Camaro after he noticed one glaring anomaly: Its tires were issued some two decades or so after the car was first manufactured.

"Perhaps the owner wanted to upgrade the car's look by using tires from the 1990s," said Foster. "Whatever his reason was, he lost points by doing so."

The vintage car owner's reasons for spending a fortune on a passion not too many people can readily afford are numerous. Earning a handsome profit for all his troubles isn't a prime motivator.

"I've often been asked to name my price," said Jimenez, owner of a 1969 Mercedes Benz 280SE. "It's not for sale. It's irreplaceable. Besides, my daughter Bianca wants to have it someday."

To a certain extent, buying cars is like buying artworks. Only time will tell whether they'll become classics or not, he said. It makes more sense, however, to invest in models and brands with a heritage and proven track record.

"You don't get a car thinking that it would appreciate in value," added Jimenez, whose car won second place in the modern class. "You get a car primarily because you like it. You get it for what it is."

Dimaculangan takes pride in the fact that his 1956 Mercedes Benz 190SL, third place winner in the Classic Age class, is one of only five cars of its kind in the country. Of that number, only two (including his) are in good running condition.

"For me, the 1950s offer avid collectors with the best cars to collect," he said. "Personally, I see the potential in terms of a particular car's rarity."

Dimaculangan sought the help of Claudio, who heads a group of hobbyists who call themselves Route 66, in restoring his Mercedes Benz to its original condition. He could very well be echoing the concerns of restorers like him.

"The challenge wasn't confined to a particular area," said Claudio. "It was in putting it piece by piece. It involved the collaboration of different people working together as one. It was really time-consuming since we also had to do extensive research."

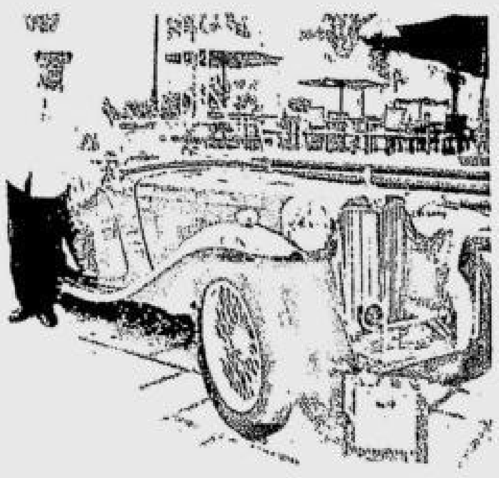
Like a proud father, Aldeguer, owner of four Porsches, treats his cars like his children. (For the show, the Cebu-based businessman had to ship his 1968 Porsche 912 to Manila).

"I don't have any favorites," Aldeguer said. "Like kids, each car has its own characteristics, which makes it dear to you."

At the same time, however, he likened the magic he felt when he saw his dream Porsche to the time he met his ideal woman for the very first time. It's something that's supposed to be felt, not rationalized, he explained.

"Just like a woman, you admire the car as a whole," he said. "I just think the sex appeal of Porsche is unbeatable. Nothing gets me as excited as seeing a Porsche."

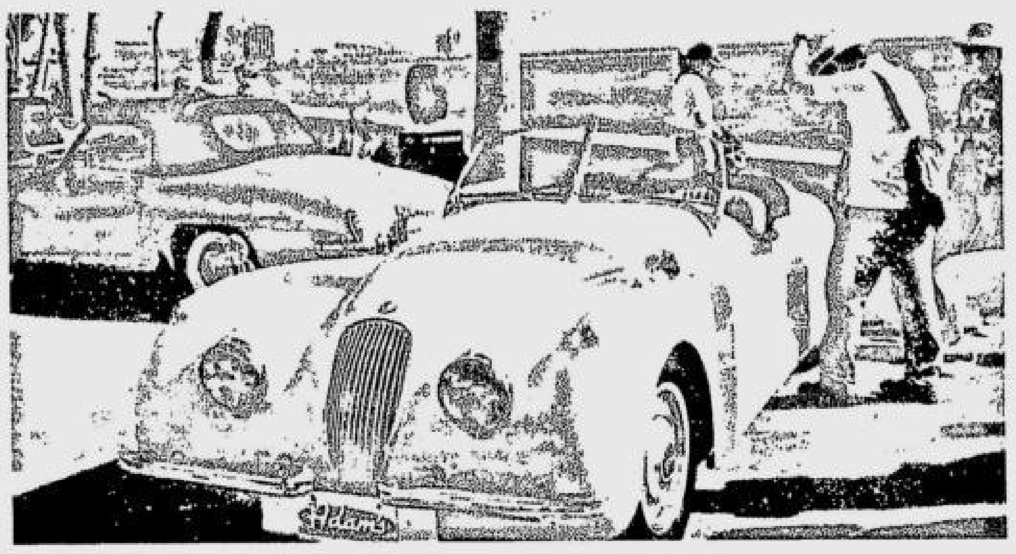
**MODERN** class 2nd place 1969 Mercedes Benz 280SE owned by Joel Jimenez



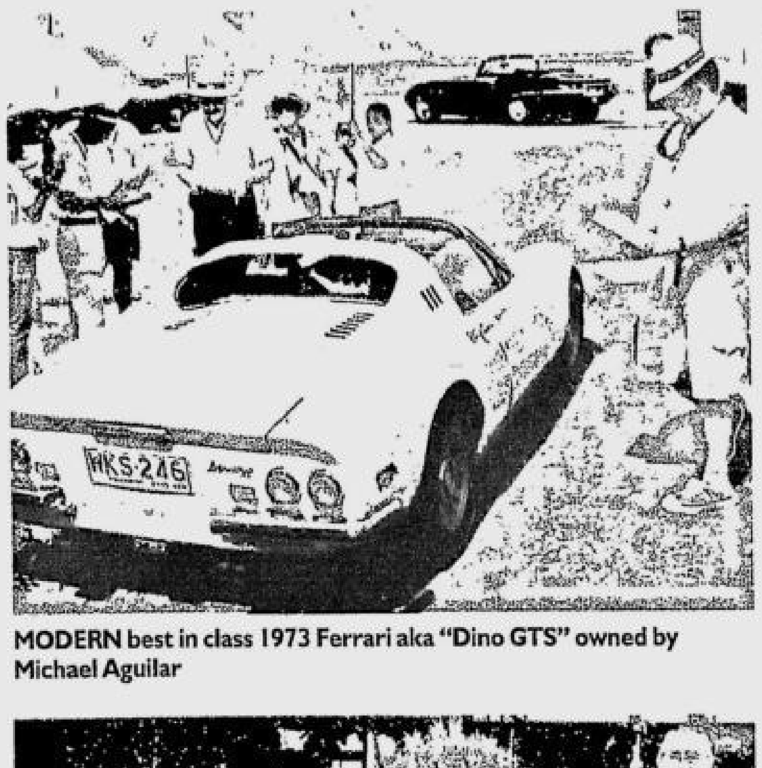
**POST WAR** 2nd place 1948 MG TC owned by Ben Silvestre

**LATE** Golden Era 2nd place 1966 Chevrolet Corvette with Francis Kho and Alex Claudio

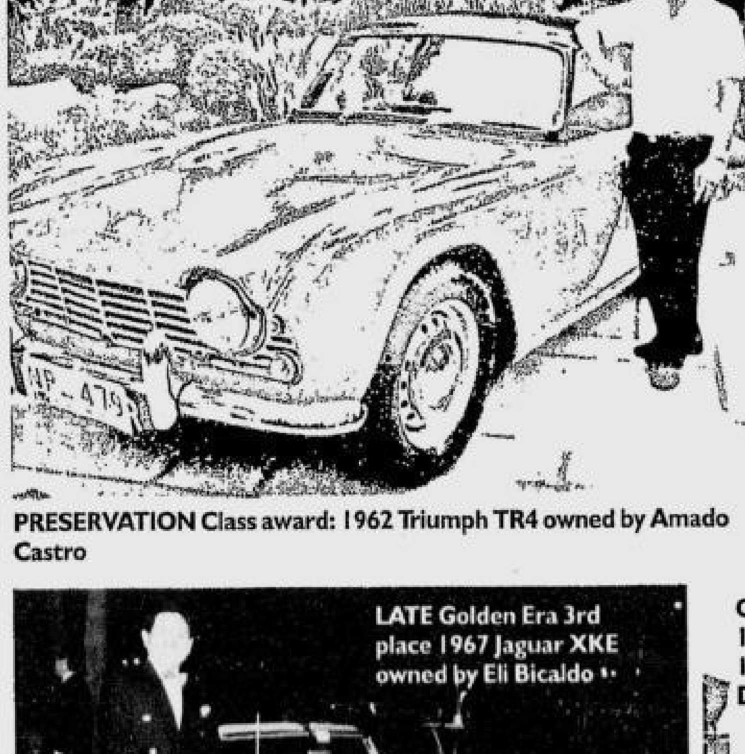
**MODERN** class 3rd place 1969 Volkswagen Karmann Ghia owned by Dodo Macapagal



**POST-WAR** best in class and Yokohama awardee: 1953 Jaguar XK120 owned by Jorge See

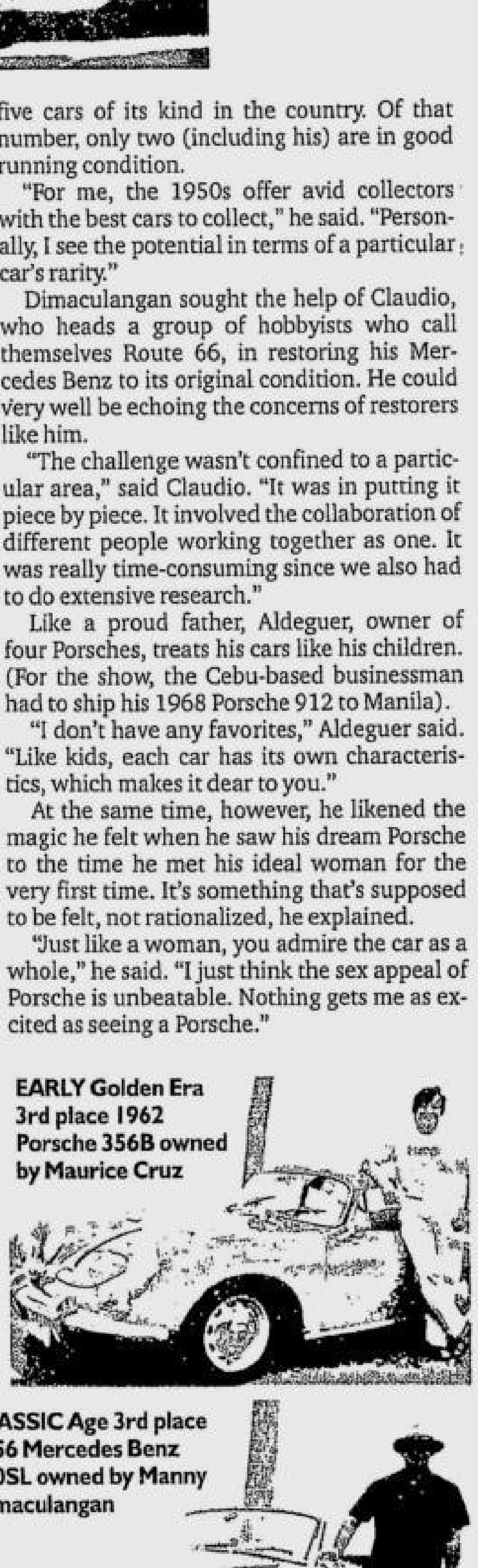


**MODERN** best in class 1973 Ferrari aka "Dino GTS" owned by Michael Aguilar

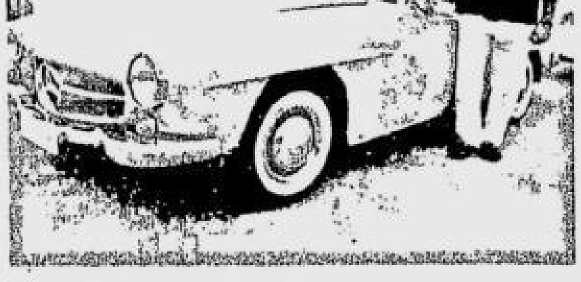


**PRESERVATION** Class award: 1962 Triumph TR4 owned by Amado Castro

**LATE** Golden Era 3rd place 1967 Jaguar XKE owned by Eli Bicaldo



**EARLY** Golden Era 3rd place 1962 Porsche 356B owned by Maurice Cruz



**CLASSIC** Age 3rd place 1956 Mercedes Benz 190SL owned by Manny Dimaculangan

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# CHRISTINA AGUILERA

# *Back to Basics*

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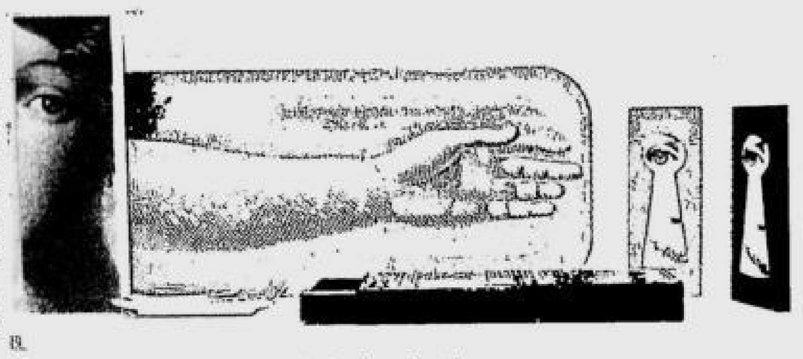
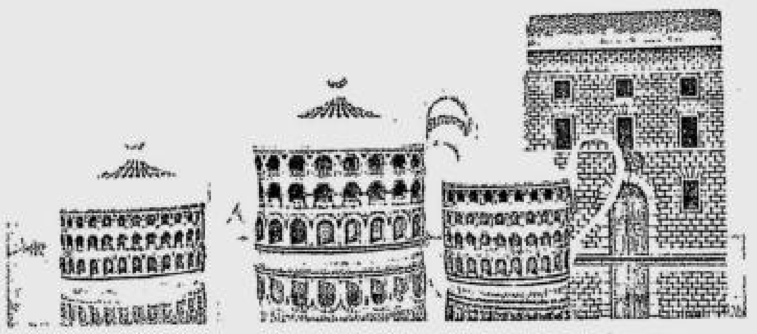
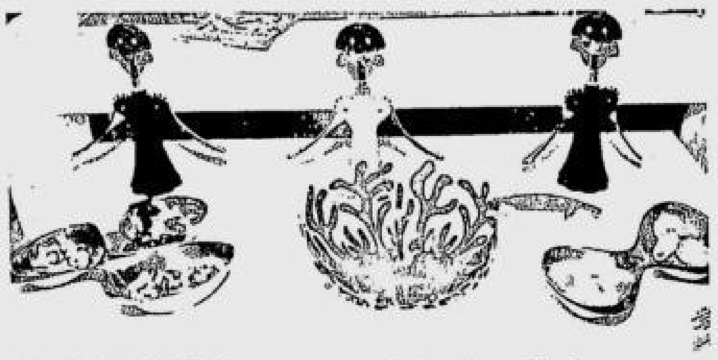


**MIND PLAY.** Curios that stir the imagination



**SINGULAR SENSATIONS.** Handpainted conversation pieces



**DESIGN ENGINE.** Contemporary designs from Alessi

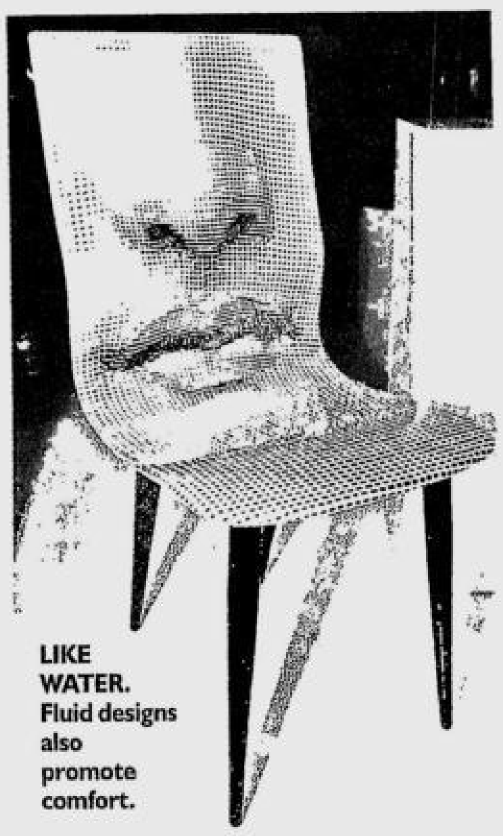
# New design address

## 105 Rada houses exclusive shops offering cutting-edge house decor and essentials

**Text by Anne A. Jambora**
**Photos by Rudy Esperas**

DESIGN AND HUMAN CHARACTER ARE the alchemy that breathes life and magic into space. Inspired objects stir the imagination so that living spaces can depart from the dull, monochromatic showroom-look. Curios make a space alive and become inseparable from the owner's persona.

Walk into a cabinet of novelty trinkets, interesting ornaments and other house décor and essentials at 105 Rada (G/F RCI Building, Rada Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City). The place houses shops offering design options for the forward-looking Filipino.



**LIKE WATER.** Fluid designs also promote comfort.

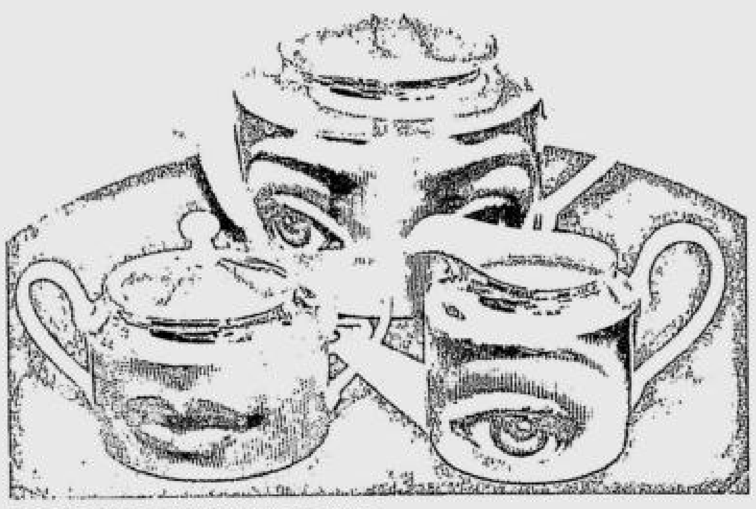
The shops are Curate, Scandinavia Trend, Thompson Lighting, Bisazza and Kitchen Studio—topnotch brands known for quality and avant-garde design.

"The shop-in-shop concept was conceived in our desire to bring the best in new design from here and around the world," said Raphael Calero, managing director of Kitchen Studio.

The sorely-missed brand Alessi, first introduced in the country in 1996, is back through Scandinavia Trend, the Danish classic, and in three different collections no less: the Classic Alessi, called a "dream factory"; the more exclusive Officina Alessi; and the more inclusive A Di Alessi.

The Danish knows design so keenly, it is said, that while neither lamp, chair nor wheel was invented in Denmark, Danish designers have come up with designs improving on them. Scandinavian Trend is also the exclusive distributor of lifestyle brands Rosendahl, Stelton, Eva Denmark, PP Mobler, Louis Poulsen, Fritz Hansen and Norman Copenhagen.

Timeless interior objects and design-led selections sourced globally are likewise available at the Curate. They include home accessories, lighting and furniture that go beyond the traditional to express ever-evolving personal tastes. Customers can check out such brands as Fornasetti, Oluce Lighting, Tord Boontje for Artecnica Inc., and Jaime Hayon for Metalab.



**DISCERNING EYES.** Art on a tray

**WELL-ROUNDED.** Decor for the senses

Famous for humor and quirky eclecticism, Fornasetti is one of the oldest running ateliers and producers of fine masterpieces and homeware based in Milan. Oluce Lighting boasts of a roster of award-winning designers that paved the way for the establishment of the Italian lighting industry in the '50s, an industry that has since wowed the world with its breathtaking designs.

Who said romanticism is dead? Laser-cut floral patterns of Tord Boontje bring back decorativeness at a time when minimalism has become mainstream. Contemporary Spanish design house Hayon has a repertoire ranging from graphic to product designs. It is better known for its signature Digital Mediterranean Baroque.

Kitchen Studio is a design company specializing in functional kitchen art design to suit the varying modern lifestyles. Importer as well of Italian cabinets and shelf systems, the company offers brands such as Lago, a specialist in woodwork; Poliform, which offers sleek and conservative closets and furniture; and Composit, which offers innovative kitchen materials and products. The Kitchen Studio also specializes in kitchen design, from Mediterranean to English to Asian Modern.

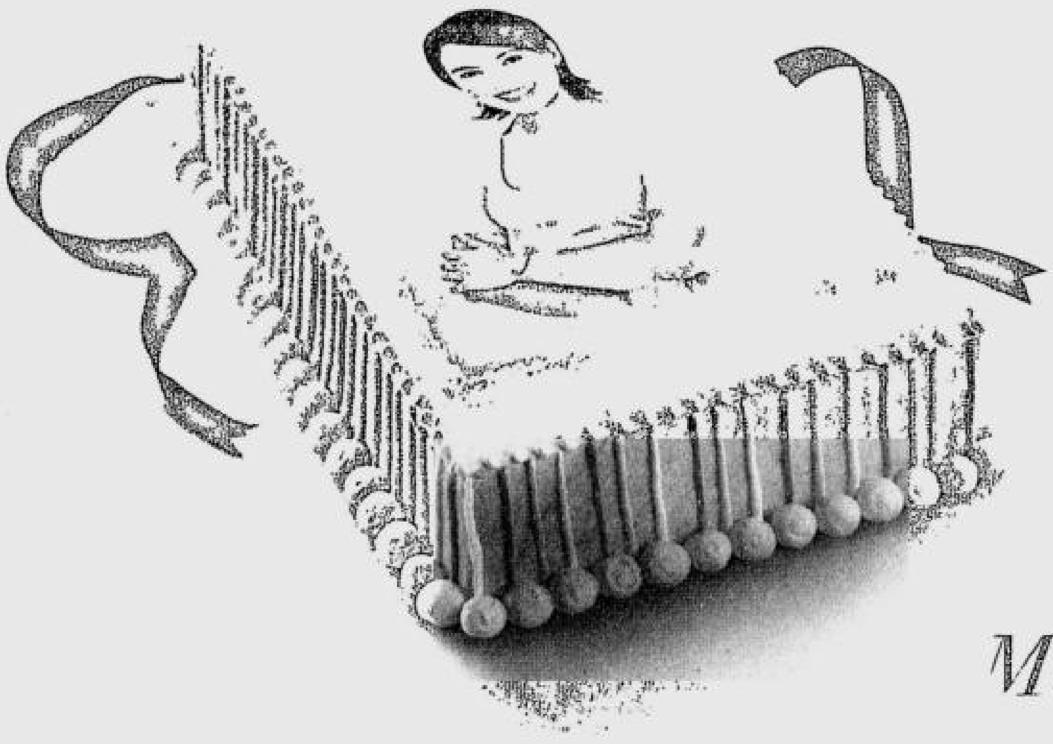
Thompson Lighting is the exclusive distributor of Delta Light (Belgium), which makes unique lighting fixtures. It also distributes Endo (Japan), Esedra (Italy), Ares (Italy), Ulti Switch (Australia), Formalight (Italy) and C-Bus centralized intelligent system.

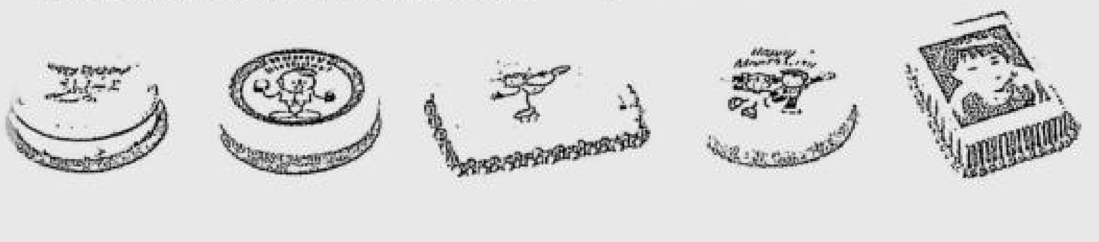
Thompson Lighting provides technologically advanced lighting systems and fixtures to residential, commercial and architectural markets.

Bisazza offers glass mosaic for floors and walls.

*E-mail the author at ajambora @inquirer.com.ph*

**INNOVATIVE.** Furniture and accessories become a visual feast.





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Sunday LIFESTYLE

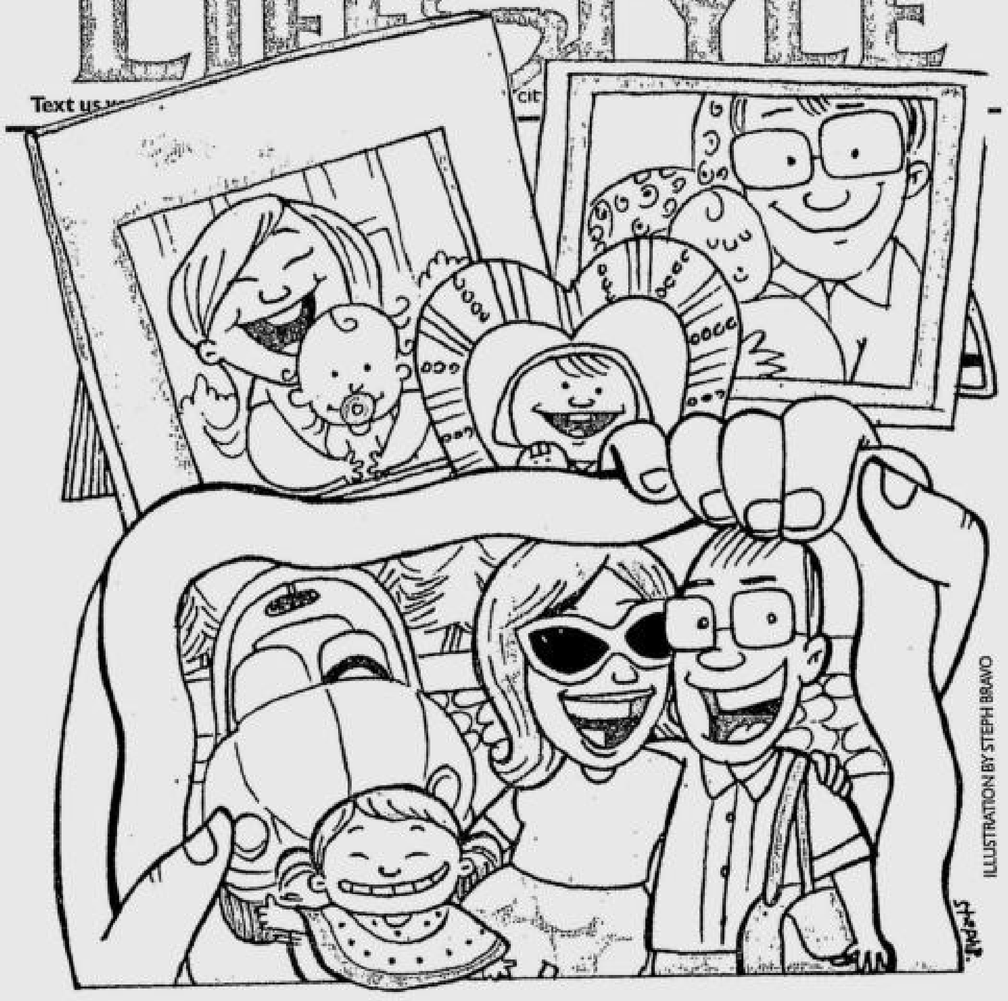

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

**ROOTS AND WINGS**
*Cathy Babao-Guballa*

# Creating family summers to remember

## 'Are we there yet?' Taking the kids along for vacation trips is family bonding at its best

THE SUMMER OF 1969 IS one that is forever etched in my mother's memory.

I was 4 years old when my parents decided to take me to my first-ever trip to Baguio. Traveling in what was like forever in a cream-colored VW Beetle. I sat in the backseat singing nursery rhymes, and holding conversations with my toy Koala bear. My father had one rule that I have taken to heart to this day (sometimes in vain) with my own children—don't waste your time sleeping while on a road trip, take in the scenery and learn as much as you can because you'll never know if you will pass that way again.

We arrived as the sun was about to set and checked into a hotel on Session Road. In 1968, Session Road was not yet as crazy-busy as it is today, but to my 4-year-old ears it was noisy and warm enough to keep me awake. I vividly recall, and my mother confirms the memory, being perched on the window sill, alternately wailing and complaining about the heat and the noise, begging for air-conditioning and wanting to go back home.

In spite of the nightmare I created for my poor parents, today when I look at pictures from that trip, I mostly remember what was fun and joyful—images of a 4-year-old astride a pony, bundled up in a bright red poncho, posing by a bed of flowers across Mansion house, holding her bleary eyed mother's hand, grinning impishly into the camera.

Summer is a wonderful time to make memories with your children. Family vacations play an important part in our memory of childhood. They are times when everyone is together, on the same schedule, eating meals together and having a good time.

When on a holiday, lighten up, leave the stress at the office and enjoy your children as much as you can.

As a parent, regardless of economic status, I think it is imperative that we take time off our work and be with our children, even for a

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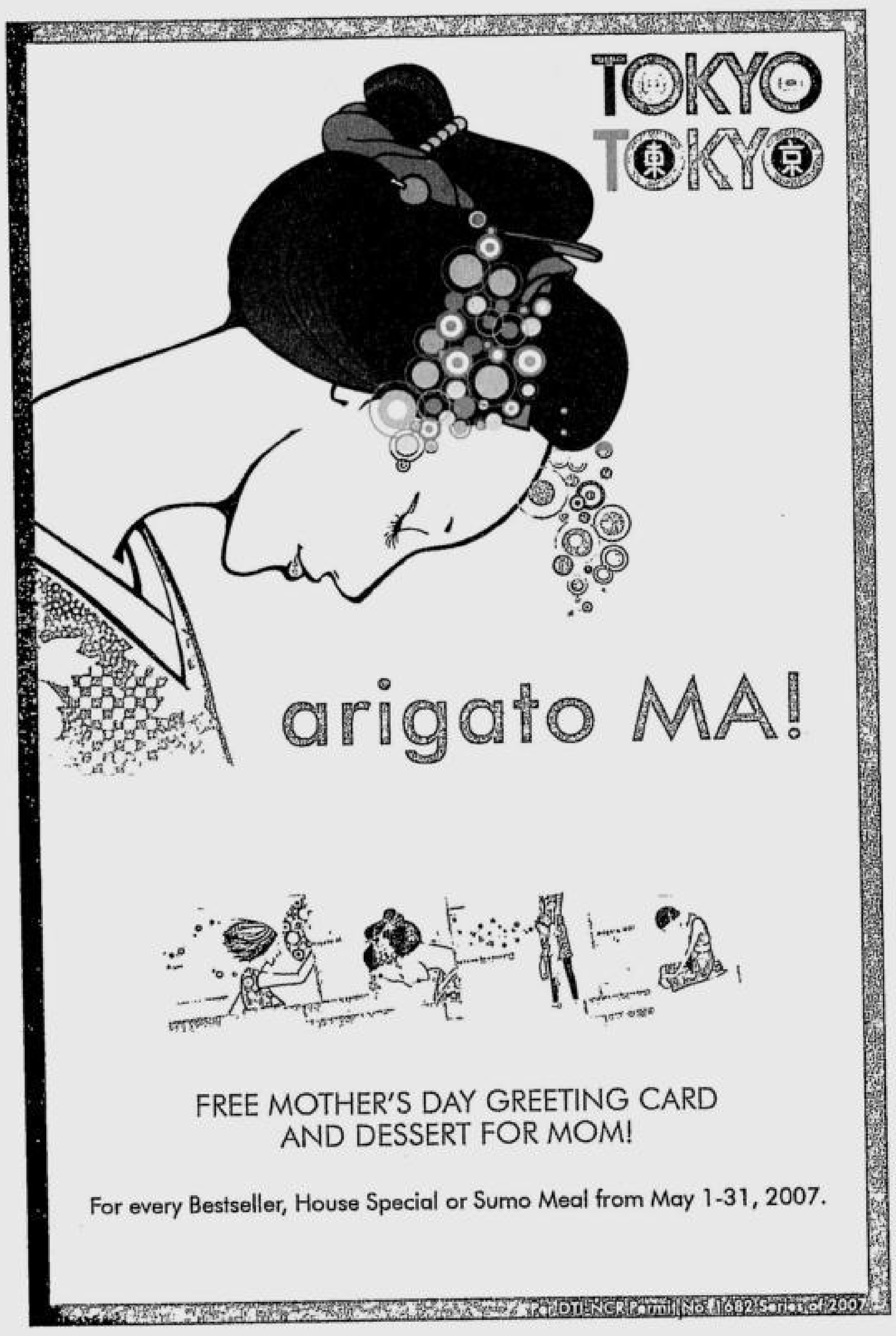

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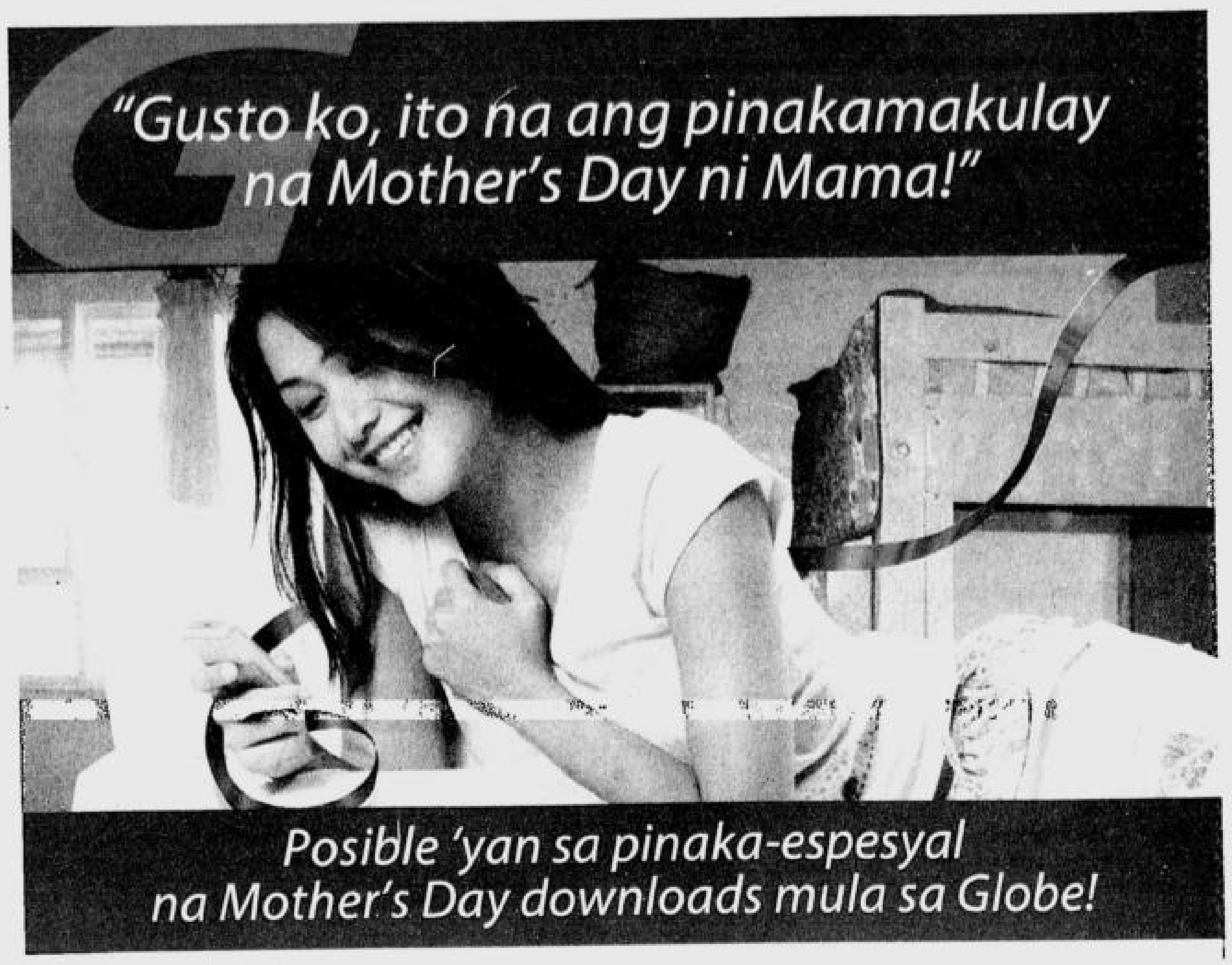
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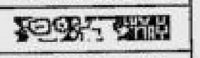
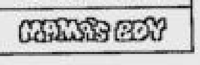
| MOMLOGO4 |  |
| MOMLOGO5 |  |

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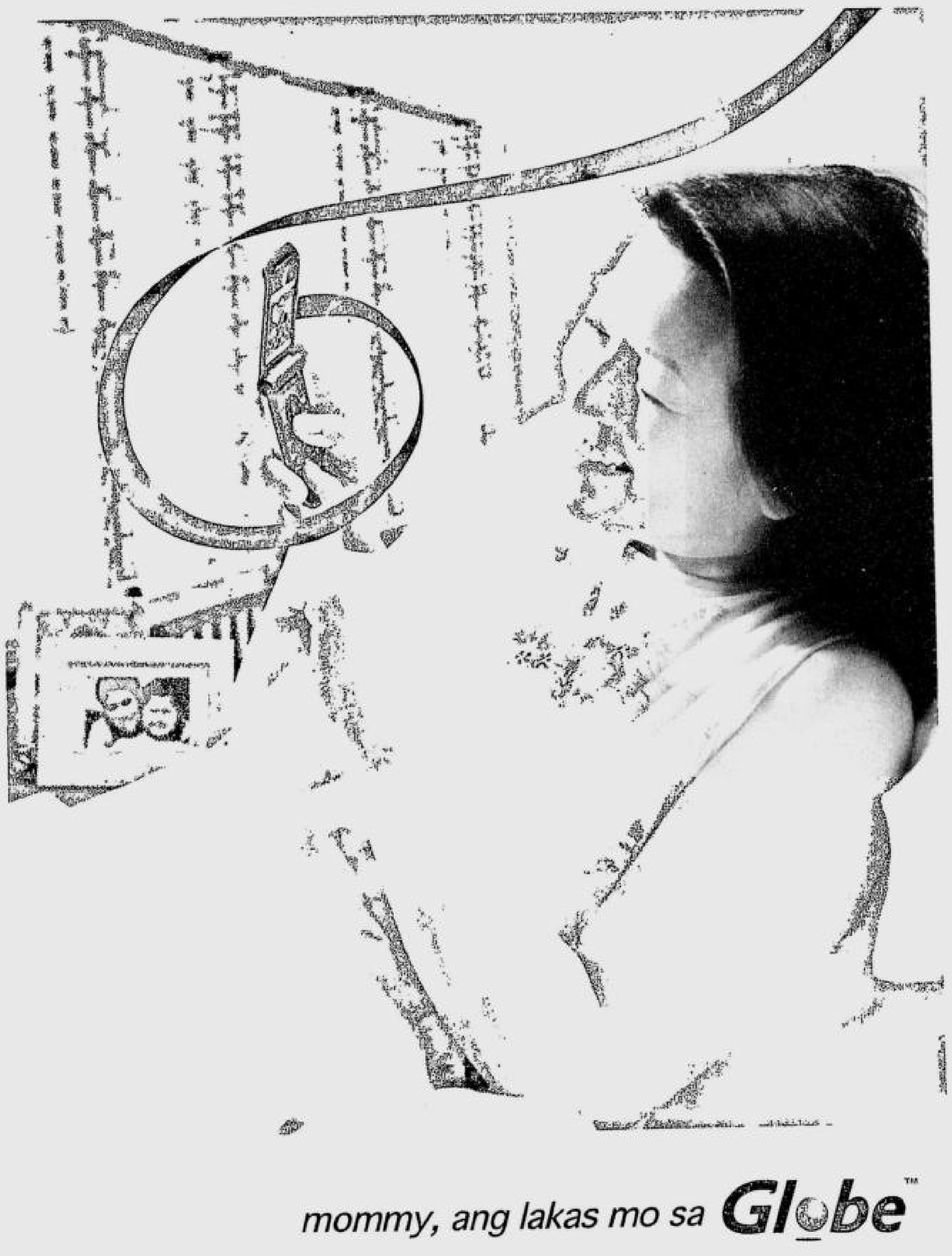

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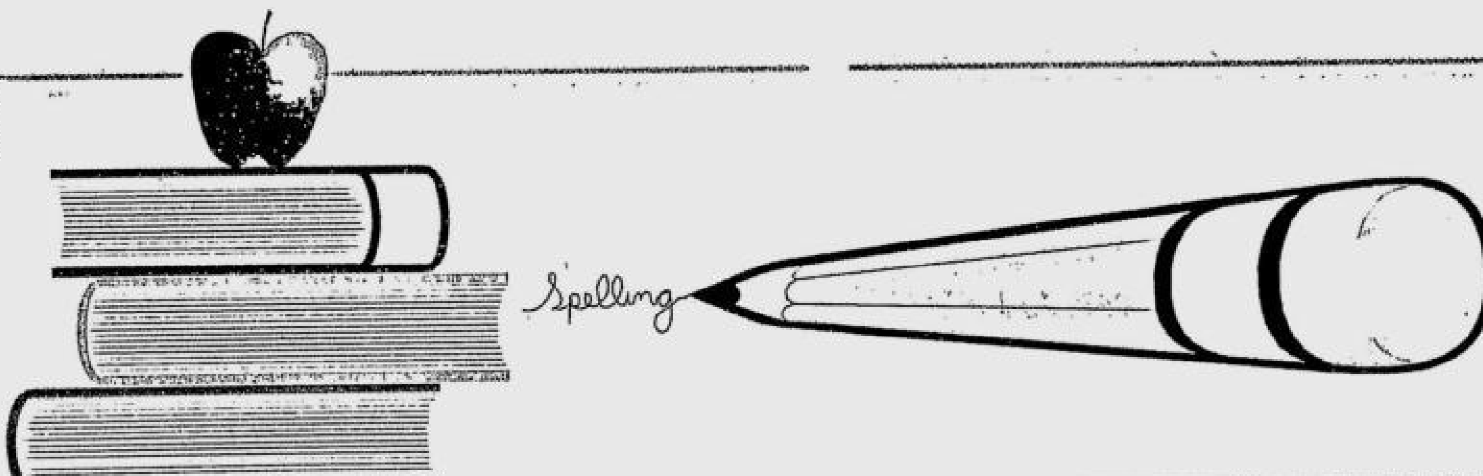

Parents who teach their kids pass on their spiritual heritage and moral values to their children; they also save some money

# Brave, new world of homeschooling

**By Cathy S. Babao-Guballa**

IN THE 2004 TEEN MOVIE "MEAN Girls," Cady Heron (Lindsay Lohan) has just moved to a small town outside of Chicago from Africa. All her life, up to the time she enters the public high school where she meets the mean girls who make her life miserable, Cady has been homeschooled. Her unique education makes her stand out in two ways—she is academically advanced but the general population has a hard time accepting her as well. "She's a Home—what?"

In the United States and in most countries around the world, homeschooling is legal and before 1900, homeschooling was the most common and accepted mode of education. Ten United States presidents were homeschooled by their mothers.

In the Philippines, homechooling has started to gain some ground though it is not as popular as it is in the US. The Master's Academy (TMA), a Christian school set up by the Christ's Commission Fellowship (CCF), has been running a homeschool program since 1999. Its homeschool program, from preschool through grade school, has been accredited by the Department of Education.

There are other institutions that offer homeschooling as well, The School of Tomorrow Philippines http://www.sotphil.org/index.htm helps provide training and curriculum materials for those who wish to homeschool.

Many parents who have opted to homeschool their children are quite happy with the results. Among the most popular homeschooling graduates in the country are the Tanchi children—Peter, Joy, Paul, Ruth and Caroline. They all excelled in academics and sports when they entered high school and college. They were all homeschooled by their mother Deonna Tanchi, who helped set up TMA at CCF.

Their father, CCF's senior pastor Peter Tanchi, would help out in those early homeschooling years by teaching Bible lessons and math.

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EXPERIMENTS ARE FUN
SCIENCE IS MY FAVORITE SUBJECT
COOL
Have more time to play
OUTRAGEOUS FRIENDS
TOMY
LORD OF THE RINGS
RONALD McDONALD
PHOTO FROM HTTP://TMAHOMESCHOOL.CCF.ORG.PH/INDEX.ASP

Katrina de Jesus, administrative coordinator for organization of TMA's homeschooling program, says there are several benefits to a homeschooling program, foremost of which is the spiritual heritage that parents can pass on to their children.

"This helps the child know God in a more personal way, as he appreciates the world God has created as he internalizes Christian values," she says.

Quality of life is another benefit of the program. De Jesus says parents are able to spend quality time with their children during the most formative years, and in families with more than one child it is common to see siblings share the experience of working and studying together at home.

## Socially well-adjusted

And contrary to popular belief that homeschooled children tend to lack social skills, research has shown that socialization in the home is more real, natural and varied.

Children who are in schools are segregated by age and are horizontally socialized with their peers. They have little opportunity to relate to adults or children of other ages, which results in the tendency to conform to the immature behavior of their peers because of their lack of older role models to emulate.

Studies on self-concept or self-esteem of homeschooled children showed that 50 percent of those surveyed fell into the 90th percentile. De Jesus says co-ops for parents and their children also offer opportunities for socialization and extra-curricular classes like art, music and PE.

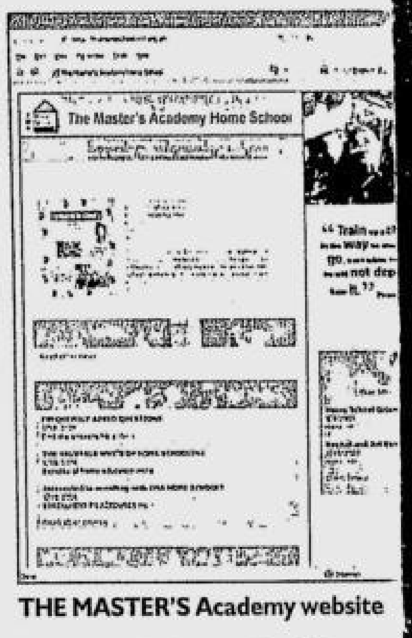
Then, of course, there is the academic edge that homeschooled children get.

Ani Torres, administrative coordinator for academics of TMA, shows me studies from the book, "The Right Choice—Homeschooling" by Christopher Clicka, which cites a study conducted in 1998 where 20,000 homeschooled children in the US were tested and compared with students in private or public schools. Results showed homeschooled students did exceptionally well in comparison with the nationwide average. In every subject and at every grade level, homeschooled students scored significantly higher than their public and private school counterparts.

## Commitment

What does it take to homeschool your child?

Grace Zorrilla, who has homeschooled her daughter Bea for the last four years, says that commitment plays a huge role in the success of homeschooling.


The Master's Academy Home School

**THE MASTER'S Academy website**

"You really have to be diligent a
mitted to give your time to your c
a daily thing you need to prepare f
says.

Zorrilla adds her greatest joy h
from learning along side Bea, who
12. "It really is such a thrill for. m
studying again with her!"

De Jesus and Torres agree that o
not have to be a certified teacher i

TMA
HOME SCHOOL

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# *Bonding bedtime routine for mom and baby*

"YOU CAN TELL WHEN CHILDREN don't get good sleep," observes Jenny Banal, teacher and founder of preschool center Second Mom.

"For a number of years now, my co-teachers and I have been playing second mom to young preschool kids who are enrolled at our school for preparatory education. The few hours we spend with them as primary caregivers give us ample opportunity to observe, then analyze their behavior during the day.

"Usually, we share our observations with their moms or *yayas* to find out possible reasons why their children are abnormally behaving."

One major factor that is often the culprit behind a child's sluggishness or irrational behavior is lack of sleep. When they have had sleep problems the night before, these manifest in their performance. They lack attention and are oftentimes irritable. On the contrary, kids who have good sleeping habits turn up at the center in high spirits, are alert and able to get immersed into the day's activities.

Jenny's realistic portrayal of kids' behavior as a result of sleep habits validates clinical studies that emphasize the need for babies and young ones to have good sleep.

"It is during sleep that growth hormones are released three times more than normal," says Dr. Michael Sarte, a sleep specialist and vice-president of the Philippine Society of Sleep Medicine.

He adds: "If sleep of babies is interrupted, then there may be a change in the cycle of, for example, the release of hormones that are needed for babies to optimally grow up.

To ensure good sleep, Dr. Luis Rivera, active pediatric consultant at both Makati Medical Center and Asian Hospital, recommends a bedtime routine which moms can do religiously with their babies. This was developed by Johnson & Johnson in the United States after a study done by pediatrician sleep expert Jodi Mindell, associate director of the Sleep Disorder Center at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, US.

The bedtime routine is easy. The first step is to bathe the baby with warm water, using a gentle soap. The second step is to massage the baby with Johnson's Baby Bedtime Lotion which is made with NaturalCalm essences. The final step is for the mom and baby to enjoy a bonding moment. The room should be dark and free from any disruptive noise. Once the baby recognizes the stimulants of the routine, he can drift off happily to dreamland.

"Moms will now fully experience the pleasure of motherhood without the stress and discomfort associated with baby's sleepless nights," says Via Abaño, Johnson's baby brand manager.

**SECOND-TIME** mom Daphne Oseña-Paez and 8-month-old Lily enjoy a quiet moment.

**JENNY** Banal and daughter Isabel

**MASSAGE** the baby all over with Johnson's Baby Bedtime Lotion. The gentle strokes give the soothing "I love you, baby" feeling.

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# Academy of digital

IN spite of the growing dem
puter-based graphic artists
ipinos still think that the arts
a good source of income. B
ception is about to change.

Since 2001, the First Acad
puter Arts in Makati City h
viding students with practi
digital arts.

Inspired by the success
ipinos abroad in digital arts
my believes Filipinos repres
untapped resource for the
mand for digital artists.

Here's a list of frequently
tions to help guide prospecti

**What skills are needed**
**digital artist?**

Individuals who wish to
as digital artists must be abl
practical knowledge of grap
artistic ability in order to
ideas into practical designs.
also know the basics of d
must have the ability to effe
with computer graphic appli
as Photoshop and Illustrator
er applications. Those who
come 3D artists should be de
and knowledgeable in 3D
and effects.

**What is the job outlook**
**artists/animators?**

A huge demand for graph
comes from numerous caree
ties in computer and web-ba
and interactive Internet publ

There is also a big opportu
lance designers who want to
top publishing business. Ha
digital arts also opens up a
portunities in film/ video s
mercial production, entertai
cation, advertising, gaming
ture.

**Is the tuition expensive?**

No. First Academy of Co
tuition are probably the low
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**Does the First Academy o**
**Arts offer job assistance to**

It assists students in gett
and/or part-time work as p
reer Counseling Services.

**What is the usual du**
**course?**

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to homeschool successfully. The DepEd only requires that the parent-teacher must be at least a college degree holder though not necessarily an education major.

"A parent also needs to allot at least four hours (for K5 to Grade 7) and two hours (for K4) of instruction time every weekday," Torres says. This does not yet include the time that must be set apart by the parent-teacher to prepare for his or her lessons.

A class schedule must be set apart each day and given priority to protect the routine of instruction and study time. At TMA, parent-teachers are required to submit their proposed schedules and are provided with support through workshops and seminars throughout the year.

Quarterly examinations and final examinations are given by the parent-teacher and evaluated subject to the standards set out by the DepEd.

The cost of homeschooling ranges from P20,000-P35,000 per schoolyear.

At TMA, the current cost of tuition for a first grade student is at approximately P35,000 per schoolyear. For those who opt to homeschool on their own, the cost ranges from P20,000-P30,000 per year. It is substantially less expensive than a traditional school where tuition plus books averages between P50,000-P80,000 per schoolyear. Multiply that by the number of children and you will see why savings are another benefit in homeschooling.

Zorrilla's daughter is now set to enter the traditional school in preparation for high school. The young girl has aced all her entrance exams but her mother says it has not been easy to find a school that would be a good match for Bea. "At one school she got bored while she sat in," she says.

Zorilla recounts how last year they had tried to put her in one of the private schools in the south of Manila, but after one month the young girl told her mother: "You better just pull me out of this school because I already know everything they are teaching me so let's not waste our money." So it was back to homeschooling for Bea and mom.

This year however, the Zorrillas are set on placing her in a traditional school in preparation for high school and the world outside.

True enough, Bea has had her fair share of mean girls (and boys) while sitting in some of the classes her parents are considering for her.

Moving into the real world and out of the confines of home is a reality she has learned to accept and prepare for. Over the summer she has asked her dad to enroll her in a taekwondo course. Now, that's one smart homeschooler!

### Is homeschooling for you

CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING WEBsites and books to decide whether you and your child are ready for the brave, new world that is homeschooling…

- Homeschool Nanay! A homeschooling mom talks about how it is to homeschool in the Philippines. Visit http://homeschoolblogger.com/deleonpt
- Homeschool.com talks about anything and everything you wanted to know about homeschooling. Visit http://homeschool.com
- Alpha Omega Publications at http://aop.com/home/ or Bob Jones press at http://bjup.com shows you a sampling of the homeschooling books and curriculum.
- "So You're Thinking About Homeschooling: Fifteen Families Show How You Can Do It" by Lisa Whelchel
- "The Unschooling Handbook: How to Use the Whole World as Your Child's Classroom" by Mary Griffith

Call The Master's Academy Homeschool Department at 6353410 or visit http://tmahomeschool.ccf. org.ph/index.asp

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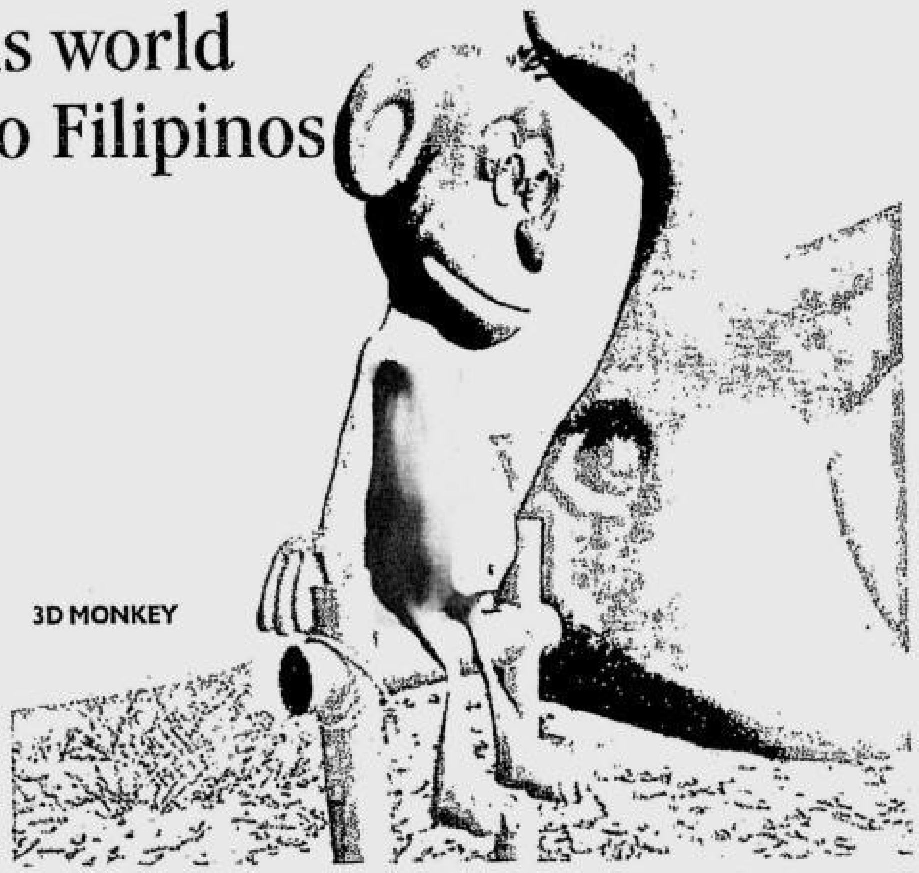
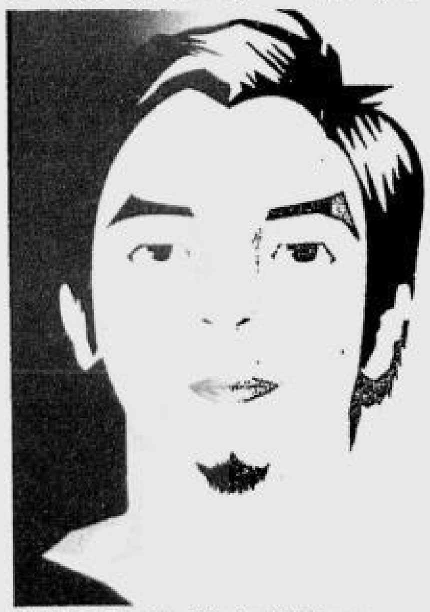
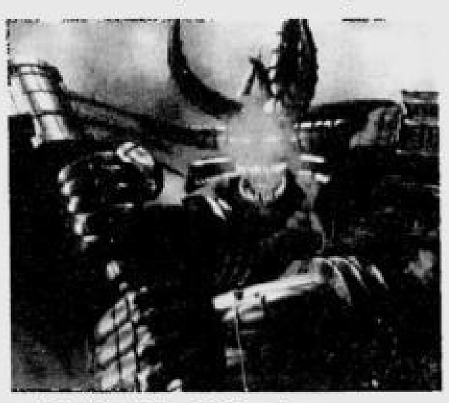


3D MONKEY



VECTOR art by Efraim Mahinay



MONSTER by RC Sanchez

may take approximately seven to 15 months.

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As the school that pioneered Digital Art education in the country, First Academy of Computer Arts has built a strong record of success providing students with practical real-world skills using cross platform technology.

The First Academy of Computer Arts offers courses on Digital Arts, a comprehensive program that covers intensive Training on Print Media Arts, Advanced Graphic Arts and Animation Media Arts; Web Design using the latest in web technologies; and 3D Animation, which trains students to make their own movie clip using characters, background and treatments that they themselves have created.

Short courses include Amateur Digital Filmmaking, Digital Photography, Digital Comics, Manga Illustration, Junior Digital Arts and Digital Scrapbook.

The programs of First Academy of Computer Arts are taught by professional digital artists through practical and hands-on work using both Macintosh and Windows.

The First Academy of Computer Arts is at 2/F, Saville Building, 8728 Paseo de Roxas corner Sen. Gil Puyat (Buendia) Avenues, Makati. Call 8982724 to 26 for a free consultation and workshop. Visit www.firstacademy.net.

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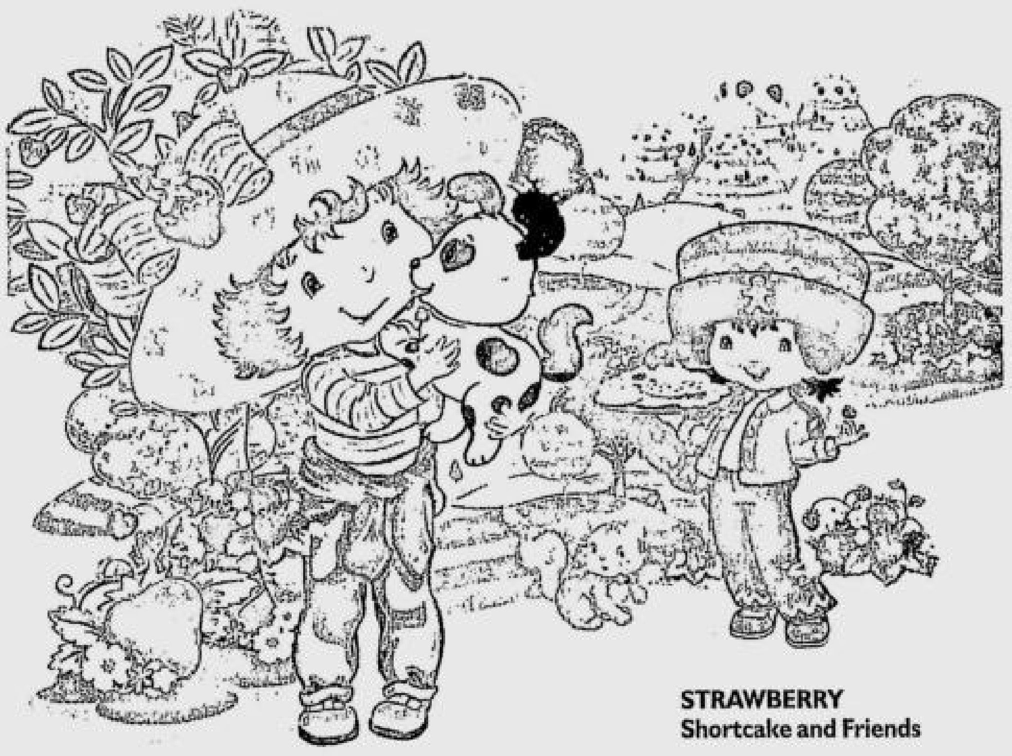

**STRAWBERRY**
**Shortcake and Friends**

# Sweet entertainment at Ayala Malls

SUMMER COULDN'T BE ANY SWEETER with the Big Berry Bake Off at the Ayala Malls from May to June. Strawberry Shortcake, one of the most popular dolls of all time and holds the distinction as the first scented doll ever launched in the market, will hold a series of original live stories in various Ayala Malls.

Strawberry Shortcake and her friends first entered pop culture as characters in a series of greeting cards originally created by American Greetings. She was first released in the early 1980s, and then re-launched in 1991 and 2002.

Witness Strawberry Shortcake and her friends live and play in their magical world known as Strawberryland, with the staging of Strawberry Shortcake's Original Live Stories at the Glorietta Activity Center, May 6, 11:30 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The runs will continue at the Market! Market! Activity Center, May 11-13, with shows at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. The next stop will be at the Alabang Town Center Activity Center, May 18-20, 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The shows will make a pit stop at the TriNoma Activity Center, May 25-27, 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Finally, Strawberry Shortcake and Friends will head off to Ayala Center Cebu, June 1-3, with shows at the South Surface Parking of the Ayala Center Cebu, 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

# Bank leads fundraising drive for education

IN LINE WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE "National Savings Consciousness Week," PSBank raised the highest donation among the Chamber of Thrift Bank (CTB) members for "Tulong Barya Para sa Eskwela," a joint project of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and Department of Education.

The objective of the campaign was to raise funds that would upgrade public elementary schools facilities. The fundraising project also served as BSP's vehicle to raise public awareness on the importance of regular usage and circulation of coins.

CTB members were among the institutions that participated in the project. The Philippine Savings Bank, an active CTB member, collected the highest amount raised by a single institution, with coin banks strategically located in all 150 PSBank branches all over the country.

PSBank has consistently supported endeavors that are geared toward uplifting the lives of Filipinos through better access to education.

PSBank is a leading savings bank, with resources that enable it to aggressively compete in retail banking. Its thrust of providing the continuously growing needs of the consumer market is consistent with its vision of being the country's consumer and retail bank of choice.

# Creating family summers...

**From page D1**

few days or weeks, when they are away from school.

If you can afford it, travel as much as you can—by land, by sea, by air. Plan on going someplace new and explore the area with your children or revisit favorite destinations. Whatever you choose to do, vacation time becomes even more meaningful if your children are involved in the decision making every step of the way.

First find out what you want to do and what you can afford. Every year, my husband and I draw up a wish list of the places we wanted to see or revisit with the children and work on our logistics. When we have that sorted out, we present it to the kids and then ask them which places they would like to visit.

Normally, we try to choose one new place we would like to explore and one that we love to return to time and again.

Involve your children in the planning. Your children's expectations and interests need to be an essential part of your planning. After all, it's everybody's vacation, not just yours. They will look forward to the new places you will explore if they know there will be things for them to enjoy as well.

Get travel brochures, read up on the destination, surf the Internet together for photographs and articles on the places you will visit including the hotel you plan to stay in. Children are highly visual—whether they are 5, 10-15 pictures help a lot in easing anxieties over a forthcoming trip.

## Essentials

Make sure to bring your essentials, more so if you are going to new and unfamiliar places with young children. Children live in their own comfort zones and younger children will experience some unspoken anxieties about the upcoming disruption of their secure, everyday life. They may worry about whether they'll be able to sleep in hotel beds without their stuffed animals or whether they'll be too scared to fly on an airplane.

The Family Education website suggests that vacation plans should not be discussed in earnest with young children until a week or two weeks before the departure date. In doing so, you minimize the worries your child may have about the forthcoming trip.

Don't forget the all-important pillow or blanket and the must-sleep-with stuffed toy. These seemingly small items can make or break a good night's sleep!

Practice democracy while on vacation. A family vacation is the perfect venue for teaching kids how to practice weighing priorities and making informed decisions.

Whenever possible, involve them in choosing which tours to take, what restaurants to go to, which food to order on the menu. If the choice is wonderful, make sure to give praise for the recommendation, if it turns out bad, refrain from teasing and just let it go. Vacation time needs to be fun and presents many opportunities to learn new lessons and experiences.

Take lots of photographs! Wherever you decide to go, make sure to bring a camera and record every imaginable event. My 16-year-old is quite the OC when it comes to documenting our family vacations from start to finish, and we are richer in our family memories because of her diligence.

Up to a decade ago, we only had albums or scrapbooks as repositories for our photographs, but nowadays, there are a myriad of websites that offer free image hosting and photo sharing where you can upload your summer memories, to view ever so often and share with the rest of the world.

Some of the good ones I have tried are http://flickr.com, http://photobucket.com, http://webshots.com and http://dropshots.com. These are excellent sites that you can use for free to organize your photos.

For me, the best benefit that the digital age brings is that these photos can now be stored forever—safe from dust, acid erosion, natural calamities or the ravages of time. They are visual memories that even my grandchildren will be able to enjoy years later.

*E-mail the author at cathyguballa@gmail.com*

*Visit http://aboutfamilymatters.com*

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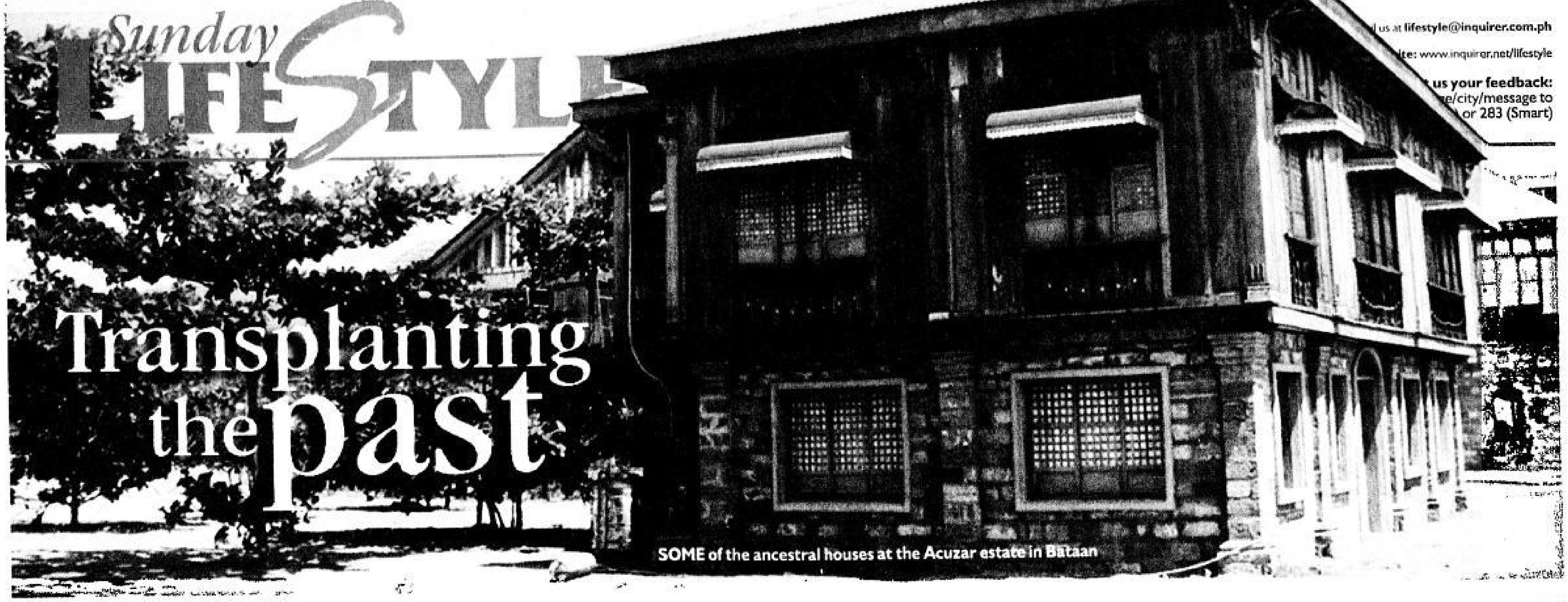


# Transplanting the past

SOME of the ancestral houses at the Acuzar estate in Bataan

**Text by Thelma Sioson San Juan**
**Photos by Nes Jardin**
*Contributors*

WE WERE A VAN-LOAD OF culturati let loose for the weekend, taking the three-hour drive to Morong, Bataan last week. For months now, we had been egging on a friend to get us an invite to this private estate in Bataan where old houses from various places are reportedly reassembled and reconstructed. Most, if not all, of them are well-known ancestral houses from Luzon which had gone on the block and would have been reduced into rubble or buried in the conflicting memories of their previous occupants, had their surviving parts not been bought by a collector/builder and rebuilt in his coastal estate in Bataan.

Finally, last Sunday, Jimmy Laya gathered a mix of writers/scholars, architects, culture officials and kibitzer (me) for the trip. It didn't turn out to be that long, owing mainly to the hilarious commentary and encyclopedic recollections of people, events and gossip—both ancient and recent—by book author Martin "Sonny" Tinio, whose landmark book with Gilda Cordero Fernando, "Philippine Ancestral Houses," has been a reference for anyone interested in our heritage architecture and period lifestyle. On that trip, Sonny made my iPod useless; we preferred to listen to him.

The sprawl of Bataan construction magnate Jose "Jerry" Acuzar is out of this world. We gasped in disbelief and near-silence (loose, instantaneous comments from our dear culturati couldn't be helped, like one's involuntary muscles) at the sight of centuries-old "ancestral" houses transplanted to this green open space so alien from their original environs. There's nothing like it in the country, I said. Jimmy noted that the only such resettlement he had seen was in the US East Coast.

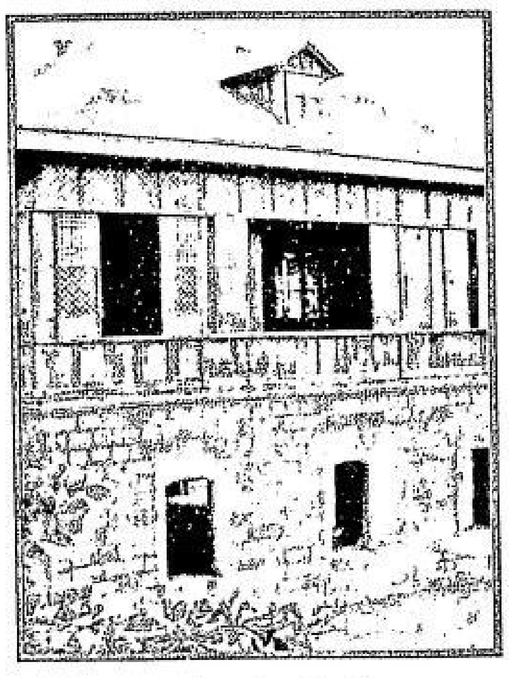
Acuzar and his wife Tess welcomed us to the biggest house in their estate—a reconstruction of a Baliwag home.

From there, we looked out to the newest addition that was still being built, the Enriquez home from Quiapo that was in the news last year because its sale was bemoaned by the culture sector since it was the original home of UP Fine Arts and there was fear the structure would be lost forever. But it was not to be as the building is now resurrected from the salvageable parts of the old structure. It is more than 800 sq m and you had to stretch your imagination to believe that such an expansive residence had once been located in today's congested Manila.

In the noonday sun, the group walked from one house to another, climbing each nearly finished structure. There's the house from Candaba, Pampanga, which veteran editor and art book author Johnny Gatbonton and his wife, book author, Chita, remembered clearly from years ago.

There are other houses—from Sta. Cruz

TRANSPLANTING/E3



THIS house was from Candaba, Pampanga.

Jacquard Jacket P8550
Camisole P495

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**INNO** Sotto with his muses

**CREATIVE** director Robbie Carmona with his cool dad Derek

**PATRICE** Ramos-Diaz gown as worn by Leica Carpo

# A fashion show to stir the senses

## TESSA!

*Tessa Prieto-Valdes*

> Even if the gown is slim, tight and difficult for a woman to try on, it's a work of art. Women like me believe in 'pain for vain'

SUMMER FASHION—IS IT ALL ABOUT bikinis and the skimpiest floral beachwear? Despite the dominance of beautiful Century Tuna bodies, creative fashion cover-ups are still the stylish way to go for those of us who are either not endowed with enough of the good physical features or overly gifted with the not so good. Several recent fashion shows have shown off the skills of our local designers in coming up with great ideas for enhancing one's positive endowments and minimizing the negative.

Alliance Française de Manille and the French Embassy in the Philippines, in collaboration with the Sofitel Philippine Plaza, had a unique fashion show called Five Senses. The French-Filipino performance used fashion to promote the French cultural season in collaboration with the country's top fashion designers, who all drew inspiration from the theme of "awakening the senses."

Especially dramatic and stunning were the creations of romantic designer **Patrice Ramos-Diaz**. Her voluminous, "moving mushrooms" designs received loud praises—even as a bit of ramp drama occurred when the model wearing the design tripped and she needed another model's help for her to rise up. Was it truly a wardrobe malfunction or all part of the awakening of our senses?

Style guru **Leica Carpo** actually tried on the gown the next day, all in the name of thorough journalism, of course. Although she did find it a bit difficult to get into the work, the gown was a stunner, a clever work of art! And as many women are believers in "pain for vain," I'm sure the gown will sell!

As one of the highlights of the ongoing French Spring in Manila 2007, the fashion show is just one of the many events happening throughout the city—all designed to bring the Filipino and French community together through culture, art and fashion.

The next event up on the list is music: **Emilie Simon**, electropop Lolita, performs at the Rockwell Tent on May 11, 9 p.m. This will surely be another fantastic event for these hot summer nights.

No French Spring is complete without world-renowned French food. The French Spring Food Festival will be held at Spiral Restaurant, Sofitel Philippine Plaza, on June 18-24. Lancôme, that epitome of French style, will sponsor this affair.

### Towering launch

Fashion was again on the menu at the launch of GA Sky Suites, a premier, towering residential condo in Quezon City. This exciting new landmark moved up the launch bar a few notches with its three days of action-packed events. The first two were style highlights of the season—a fascinating, sizzling bare-almost-all beach fashion walkabout by Bench and an elegant, sophisticated high-couture extravaganza by **Inno Sotto**.

All sectors of society were covered in the planning. The first-day launch—complete with an after-show dance party by Embassy Super Club—was a present for the partyphiles and future tycoons. The Saturday night crowd, composed mostly of already-elite tycoons and well-heeled ladies, enjoyed the lounge party of Nuvo. This was after the stylish show of Inno Sotto, who confessed that he got his inspiration from the works of **Romulo Olazo**.

The temperature soared even more on the third day, with a Celebrity Poker Match for Charity, proceeds of which went to the well-deserving ABS-CBN Foundation. The poker shark turned out to be **Epi Quizon**, who won half a million pesos for **Gina Lopez**'s projects.

The dynamic, father-daughter team, of **Delfin** and **Divine Lee**, assisted by PR guru **Joji Dingcong**, have to be very proud of their three-day blast, the perfect kick-off to launch a landmark tower in Quezon City.

### Expat Pinoy charity event

Fashion and charity really make a perfect match. They promote Filipino talent and generosity. There are many exciting projects to assist, benefit and uplift the lives of our fellow Filipinos.

The expat Filipino communities all over the world, particularly in the United States, are major supporters of numerous foundations, especially the ABS-CBN Foundation. A group of Filipinos living around the San Francisco area organized a fashion show to raise funds for the victims of Typhoon Reming in Albay, Bicol through ABS-CBN Foundation's Sagip Pamilya.

The organizers commissioned Rene Salud to present his creations at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Former top models and beauty titleholders now living in the US modeled the designs.

The models, such as **Vivian Veloso-Herrera** and **Bong Dimayacyac**, showed they had not lost their poise or grace as they strutted down the ramp just like during old times. The other models were **Diane Benisano-Bautista, Beth de Mesa, Gina Ocampo-Haas, Tet Villanueva, Michelle de Leo, Liza Ma** and **Carol Chen**, who all showed off their modeling skills. The guests were awed by Salud's creations.

About a thousand very generous Pinoys attended the successful "Tatak Salud" show. Others sent support just by purchasing tickets and some, like **Bart San Diego** of Rebarts Window Coverings, went the extra mile by sponsoring the show as well.

Creative director **Efren de Jose** and **Alphie de Guzman** of Golden Hope Presentations helped make the show successful and memorable. The main sponsor was our very own Philippine Airlines.

Here's a nice thought to leave you with this Sunday: Even if there are many of our *kababayan* so far away from home, they all come together to help the homeland when a national calamity happens. After all, wherever we may be, we are all Filipinos deep inside, neither forgetting our heritage nor our homeland and countrymen.

*E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph*

**ACTRESSES** Isabel Granada and Carla Humphries

**BRIDAL** shop of Patrice Ramos-Diaz at 3 Salcedo Place, Salcedo Village

**TV** director Edgar Mortiz and noontime TV host Willie Revillame

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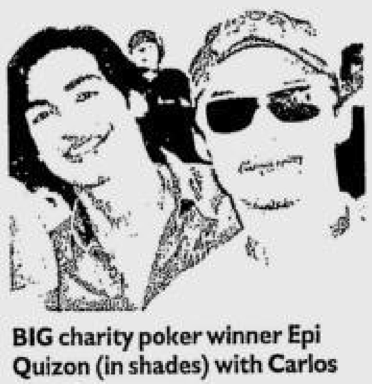
**GENEROUS** donation to ABS-CBN Foundation from Globe Asiatique, Tim Yap, Divine Lee, Paul Mercado, Sea Princess and Delfin Lee

**TALENTED** Ayanna Oliva and "Pinoy Big Brother" housemates Jason Gainza and Say Alonzo

**PHYSICIAN-COUPLE** Hayden Kho and Vicki Belo, with Divine and Delfin Lee



**BIG** charity poker winner Epi Quizon (in shades) with Carlos Agassi

**ROSE** Libongco of Sofitel Philippine Plaza

**SAUDI** Arabian Ambassador Mohammed Ameen Mohammed Wali, Cynthia Carrion, and Mo Ihsan, executive assistant manager of Sofitel Philippine Plaza

**SRI** Lankan Ambassador Wijekoon Mudiyanselage Senevirathna

**BERND** Schneider, GM of Sofitel Philippine Plaza; Philippe Gauthier, founding president of Le Club; and French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel

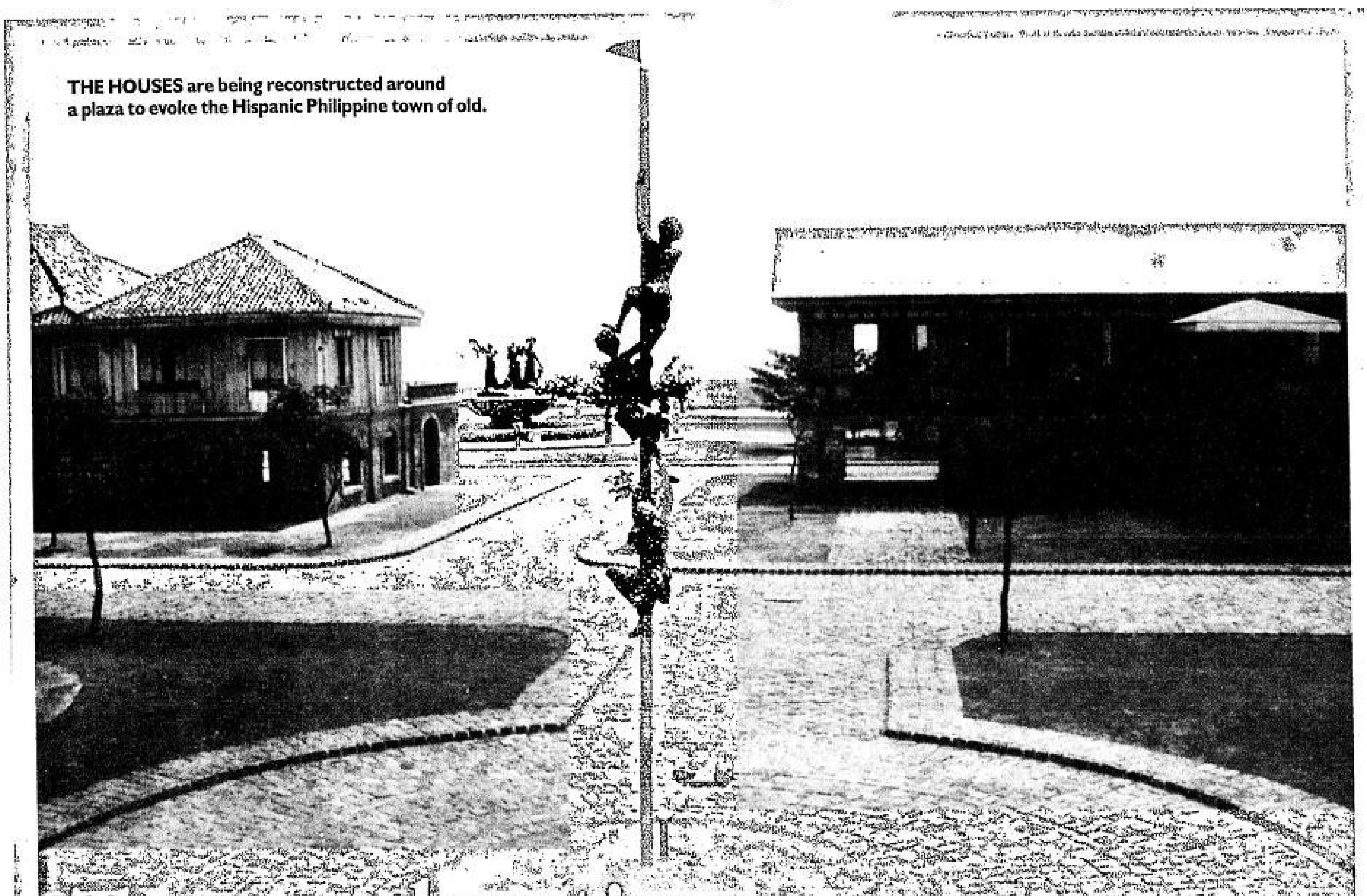
**TOP** designer Inno Sotto, model Grace Molina and food expert Gaita Fores

**DESIGNER** Patrice Ramos-Diaz with cute sons Quito, Luis and Aki

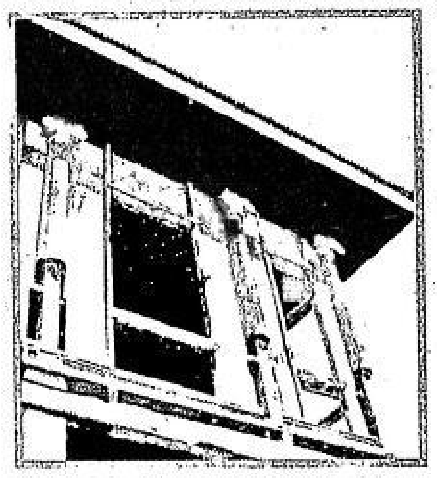
**IAN** King and Joey Mead

**PUEY** Quiñones, Olivier Dintinger, Lulu Tan Gan, Vittorio Barba, Joji Lloren, Rajo Laurel

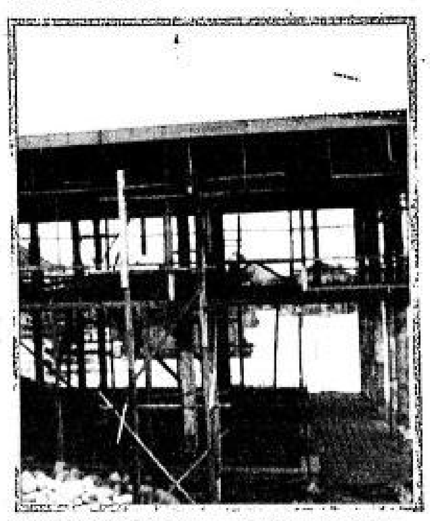
**ALAIN** Fortin, first secretary of the French embassy, Frances Alby, Frank Alby, Lulu Tan Gan, and Bernard Flour, president of Le Club (French Chamber of Commerce)



**THE HOUSES** are being reconstructed around a plaza to evoke the Hispanic Philippine town of old.

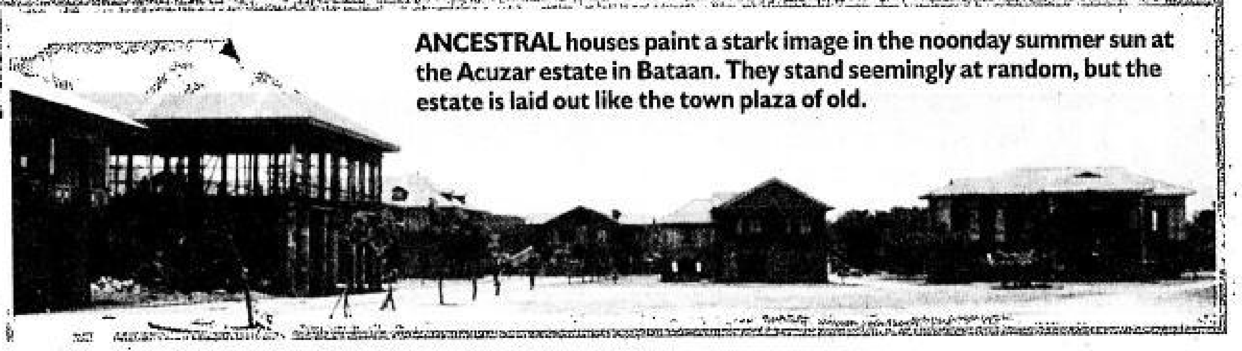


**ONE** of the 14 structures at the 40-hectare estate



**THE ENRIQUEZ** ancestral house torn down in Quiapo, now being reconstructed in Bataan. This was the first home of the UP College of Fine Arts.

# Transplanting the past



**ANCESTRAL** houses paint a stark image in the noonday summer sun at the Acuzar estate in Bataan. They stand seemingly at random, but the estate is laid out like the town plaza of old.

From page E1

and Binondo (Manila), Bulacan, Pampanga and Quezon. In the latter, a member of the group recalled a feature—a trap door, which the wife of the household used to flee the "tulisan" (town bandits) and escape and the tragic end the family met.

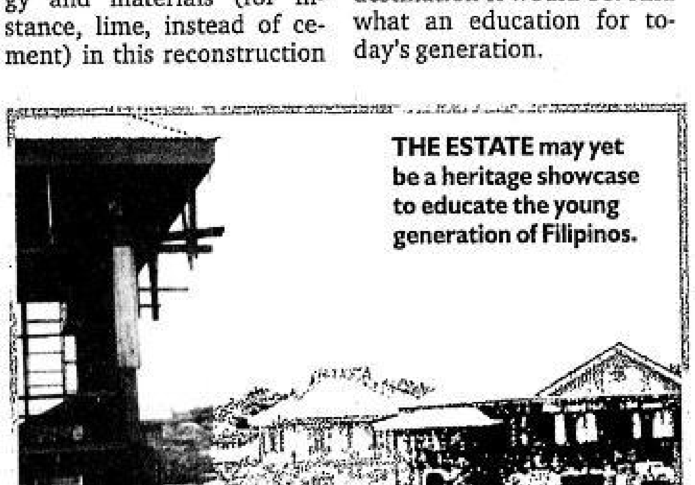
It was enthralling to hear Sonny narrate his recollections of the unique features of each home. We realized that this author and scholar of Philippine heritage had indeed scoured the country for architectural and culinary traditions, encountering many of these homes we were touring and committing their history to memory.

The architects in the group—conservation advocates Tina Turralba and Joven Ignacio—noted how important it is to use the right construction technology and materials (for instance, lime, instead of cement) in this reconstruction effort, an expertise that should hark back to the period in which each house was built.

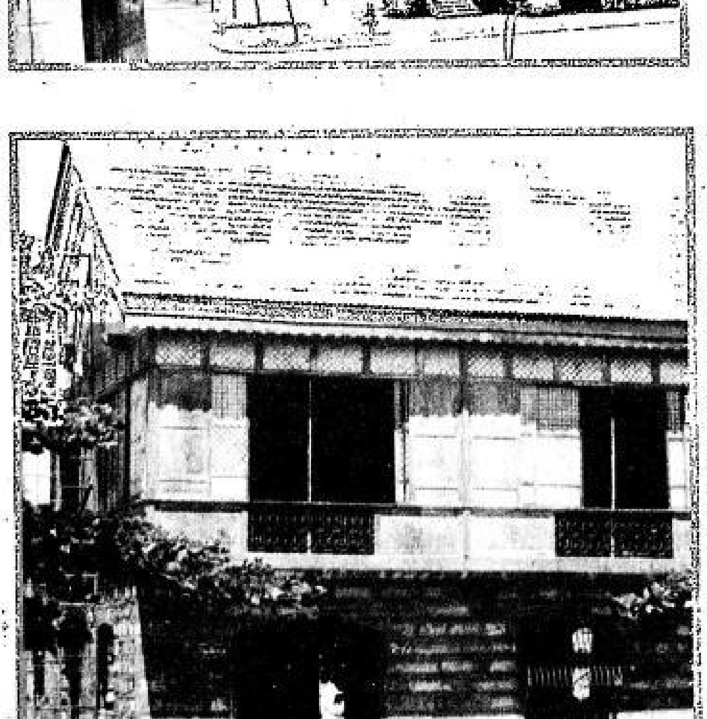
But all—including Cultural Center of the Philippines president Nes Jardin and the usually hard-to-please writer Ramon Villegas—agreed that Acuzar's effort is a unique feat. Acuzar is an art collector with initial interest in paintings until an old house was offered to him three years ago. That led to an obsession with old houses.

There are 14 such structures in the 40-hectare estate by the sea. In this vast open space, the houses can "breathe," unlike, you imagine, in their birthplaces of a century ago. And, in the quiet of the night, you imagine, they must be speaking, telling their stories and secrets of old.

Were this estate to be opened to the public, what a destination it would be! And what an education for today's generation.



**THE ESTATE** may yet be a heritage showcase to educate the young generation of Filipinos.



**IT** is important to use the right construction technology and materials in the reconstruction effort.

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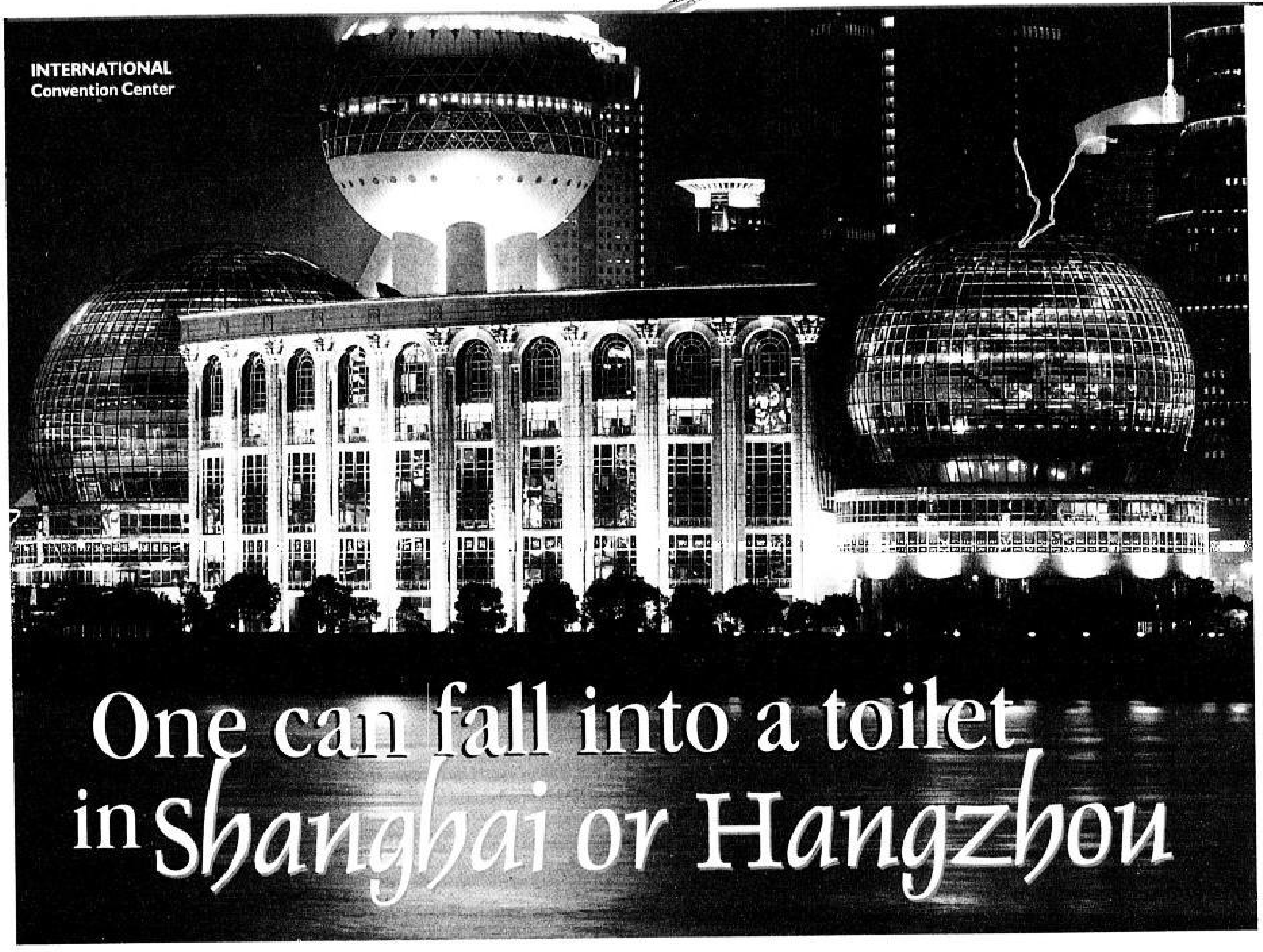
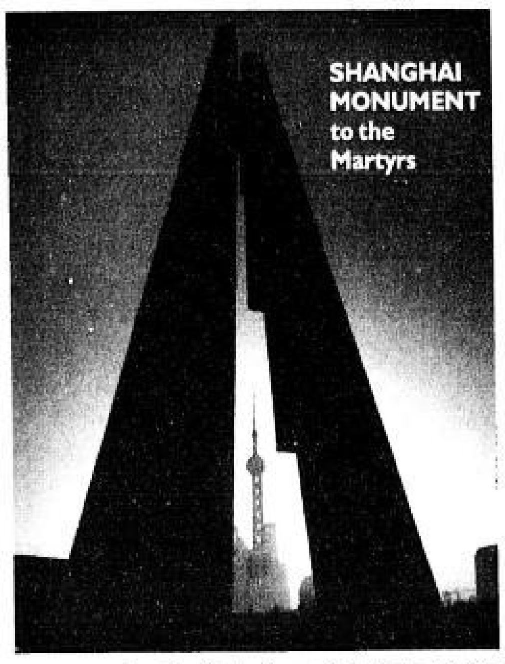

**INTERNATIONAL** Convention Center

# One can fall into a toilet in Shanghai or Hangzhou

The Chinese cities have seen spectacular transformation in just the last 15 years


**SHANGHAI MONUMENT** to the Martyrs

**By Lin Acacio-Flores**
*Contributor*

OUR OFFICE FAMILY OF 29 LAWYERS of the Platon Martinez Flores San Pedro Leaño Law Firm go on an annual trip abroad, the married ones dutifully bringing their spouses along. This year, 43 of us flew to Shanghai and Hangzhou, from the unusually hot and humid summer of Manila to the cool spring of China.

In Shanghai, we boarded the Maglev train, which practically flies just above the ground and brings one to his destination in seven minutes, as compared to a car ride which would take 45 minutes without traffic. We were told that only Germany has a similar train. Minda Santiago, who arranges and accompanies all our trips, took my arm and sighed, long and deep.

"You tired?" I asked.

"I'm sad," she said, "that our country doesn't have all these." She wasn't just referring to the train, she meant the whole of Shanghai, and I had to agree with her. Except for the toilets, I thought, making a mental memo to tell her about it later.

The Pudong district, all of 522 sq km, was simple farmland only 15 years ago. Now it is a well-planned metropolis. From the 360-degree view afforded by the glass-walled second level of the Pearl of the Oriental TV Tower, we saw the Nanpu and Yangpu bridges arching over the Huángpu River.

Skyscrapers ("sky scriptures" said Shirley our Chinese guide) pointed to the sky. The elevated Inner Ring Road curved in loose whorls above straight highways. In between were generous spans of green, parks at trees and brilliant flowers. All these built in the last 15 years... if only we could do as well.

Not that everything old was torn down to shape the image that Shanghai is building as a city that is reforming and opening to the world as a major hub of business and commerce. Foreign colonizers had built stately buildings in classic European styles in the 1840s, and these have been preserved to remind the Chinese of the time foreigners dominated the country.

We strolled in the sunshine along the wide avenue of the Waitan Bund, classic edifices on our right, the river on our left, flowers and benches here and there, and it seemed as if we were in Europe. The only reminder that we were in Shanghai was the enormous red streamer with Chinese calligraphy running down the whole length of one majestic building.

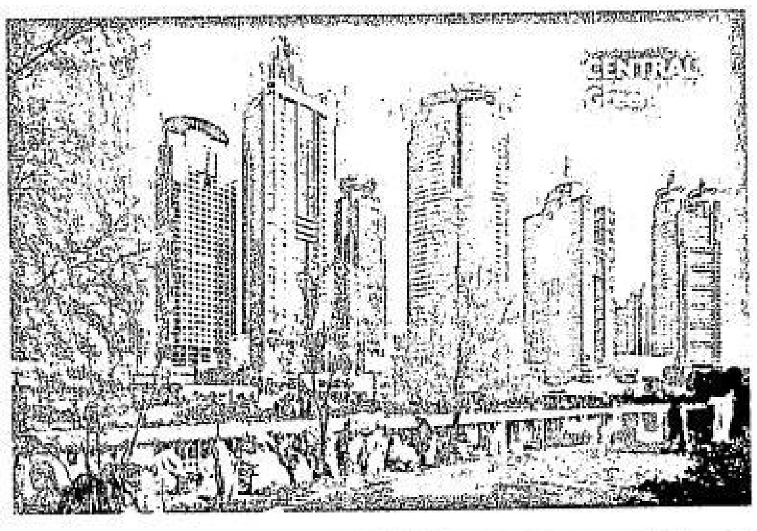
**SHANGHAI** Circus World

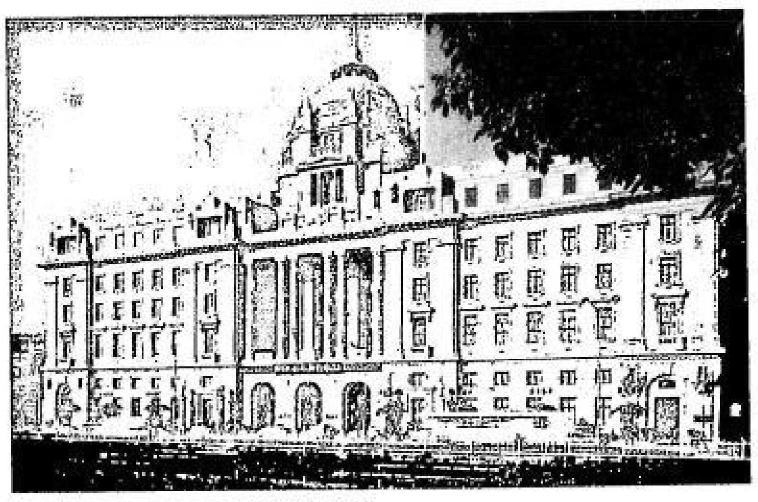
On a leisurely boat ride around the Huángpu River one breezy evening, we viewed the shore. All the buildings around were outlined with strategically placed lights.

## Sun's wife

Dr. Sun Yat Sen is familiar to us as the man who triggered the Chinese Revolution. We were brought to the residence of his wife, Soong Ching Ling. The story of our guide was that Dr. Sun Yat-Sen had a first wife and would have taken Soong Ching Ling as a mistress. But the strong-willed lady refused to be a concubine and insisted he divorce his first wife and then marry her. She became an activist, a leader of the People's Republic of China.

Her house, however, is simple and unassuming. The receiving and dining rooms where Dr. Sun Yat-Sen received foreign diplomats are small, comparable to those in a Filipino middle-class home. The beige armchairs are in the upholstered western style; the dark, carved side tables and coffee table as well as the unpretentious (but priceless) scrolls and blue-and-white vases are Chinese. The dining table sits only eight at the most.




PUDONG DEVELOPMENT PARK

YAN'AN Road District

## Hangzhou

We traveled for two and a half hours out of Shanghai to Hangzhou. Our buses left the densely populated scenes of business buildings and crowded residential zones. Now farmlands lined each side of the highway, dotted now and then with farmhouses that were two or three stories high. Some had a sort of round turret on top. Shirley said that was "where the family keeps their dead."

The island on the center of the highway was filled with flowers all the way, bright, well-cared-for beds of yellow and red.

In Hangzhou, the streets were filled with people, buses and cars. Flowers lined the curbs. We were brought to the Temple of Yu Fei, general and national hero of China. In 1961, this compound of traditional Chinese buildings and gardens was declared a national protected monument by the State Council. In here are the tombs of Yu Fei and his son. On one plaque are Chinese characters with Yu Fei's motto: Be loyal to the Motherland. We jostled with the crowds of local tourists, on vacation for one week to celebrate Labor Day, which they also mark on May 1.

Hangzhou grows the best Chinese tea in farms on terraced hillsides. Women are the tea pickers, choosing only the tops with three tiny leaves from among the thickly branding bushes. This is women's work, said the guide, because men are not that patient. But it is the men who toast the leaves by hand in huge, hot pans like our *kawa*.

With many humorous asides, a girl told us how to brew tea. The best tea is Dragon Welltea, very green in color, fragrant and smooth-leaved. We were told of its many virtues, being an antioxidant and cure-all. Of course each one of us came away with several cans. The girl packed each can herself, very tightly (I am the best tea-packer, she said), tamping the contents down. Rather expensive, that tea—300 yuan for a can of about eight ounces, which was about P2,100.

We took a boat cruise along the West Lake, viewing a peaceful unspoiled green shore. In the distance rose the multi-roofed Six Harmony Pagoda. Our visit to the Flower Harbor with its dense trees, peaked-roof porches from which one could watch goldfish (carp) as large as mother *bangus*, was cut short by rain.

## Toilet training

Oh yes, the toilet incident. In women's public toilets, almost all cubicles have the toilet bowl built into the tile floor, its edges flush with the floor. In other words, a lady has to squat to use them. There may be only one western toilet in an aisle of 12 toilets. So there usually is a long queue of foreign women in front of the western toilet.

My jet-setter friend, Bee Martinez, had taught me how to use the Chinese toilet when we were in Beijing, two years ago. On the way to Hangzhou, I decided to avoid the waiting line and do it the Chinese way. Well, I did, but while rising, my legs threatened to do a ballet split because the floor was wet and slippery. Fortunately (with a desperate prayer), I got my old knees to work and stood up. But from then on, Bee, don't persuade me to try it again.

I forgot all about that when we had lunch in Hangzhou, arguably the best meal we had in China, according to Doris San Pedro, my gourmet friend. Among other dishes, we had chicken, steamed in clay, wrapped in cellophane, unwrapped in front of us, its aromatic steam a prelude to its heavenly flavor. "Beggar's chicken," said someone and I thought, what a misnomer.

All our lunches and dinners were multi-course, lauriats and I must have gained five pounds. Woe is me, I thought, as Lina Platon and I browsed through the pretty dresses in the Shanghai department stores along Nanjing road, the major shopping street. The Shanghainese women are almost all so slim. I am a medium here, there I am XXL.

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## New Macau hotel

The Venetian Macao Resort Hotel opens its doors to the public middle of this year. Like the Venetian Las Vegas, it was built by legendary American hotelier-business tycoon Sheldon G. Adelson of the Las Vegas Sands Corp. The new property will increase by several thousands the number of upscale rooms on Macau's Cotai Strip, which is getting to be known as Asia's Las Vegas. It has an astounding 100,000 sqm ultra-modern convention and exhibition center. Other landmarks are Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Center with the 10th tallest freestanding tower in the world; the Macau Fisherman's Wharf Convention and Exhibition Center recognized as the city's most spacious convention facility; and Steve Wynn's Wynn Macau, sister hotel of the Wynn Las Vegas; and the Bellagio. The Macau Government Tourist Office is at Suite 11-D Valero Tower, 122 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati. Call 8122595 or 8130947.

# TRAVEL BRIEFS

## May tours

Inscribe Tours has lined up holiday packages to three popular destinations this May. A four-day tour of Banaue is set May 17-20. It includes excursions to the magnificent rice terraces, Ifugao village of Bangaan, the Mountain Province's capital Bontoc and the town of Sagada. Separate three-day tours to Bohol and Palawan are scheduled May 18-20. Guests will stay at Hotel Fleuris. Call 8405912 and 5758370.

## Hotel wins int'l awards

The Event Management team of Renaissance Makati City Hotel, Manila garnered the Regional Events Management Team of the Year Award for the China, Malaysia, Vietnam and Philippines region, as well as the Global Leadership Event Management Team of the Year Award-Renaissance Hotels, in the Worldwide Sales and Marketing and Event Leaders Conference for all Marriott, Renaissance and Courtyard Hotels. The international conference was held in San Francisco, California. The 10-member, all-Filipino team bested 135 other prestigious Renaissance establishments from Europe, Asia and Middle East. Led by events director Joy Ronquillo, the Renaissance Event Management team was cited for their exceptional handling of special events such as the George Washington Ball; Australian National Day; Britain-Asia-Pacific Conference; Canadian National Day; Doha Games Torch Relay Launch; Grand Wine Experience, among others. They were also recognized for their innovative style of managing events that includes an in-house event stylist. The Renaissance is currently promoting their Work and Play Weekend Meeting Package for companies seeking the perfect venue for their meetings, team-building and other conferences held weekends. Those who avail of the package will get a special discounted rate in a Deluxe Room. Call 8116888.

**GWEN Hufano, Ivy Payongayong, director of Event Management Joy Ronquillo, Tiffany Ong and Liz Gatdula. Second row: Avril Mariano, Monica Abalos, director of marketing Cristy SilvestreCarreon, event stylist Robert Silfavan, Shackle Corpuz and Koni Plamenco**

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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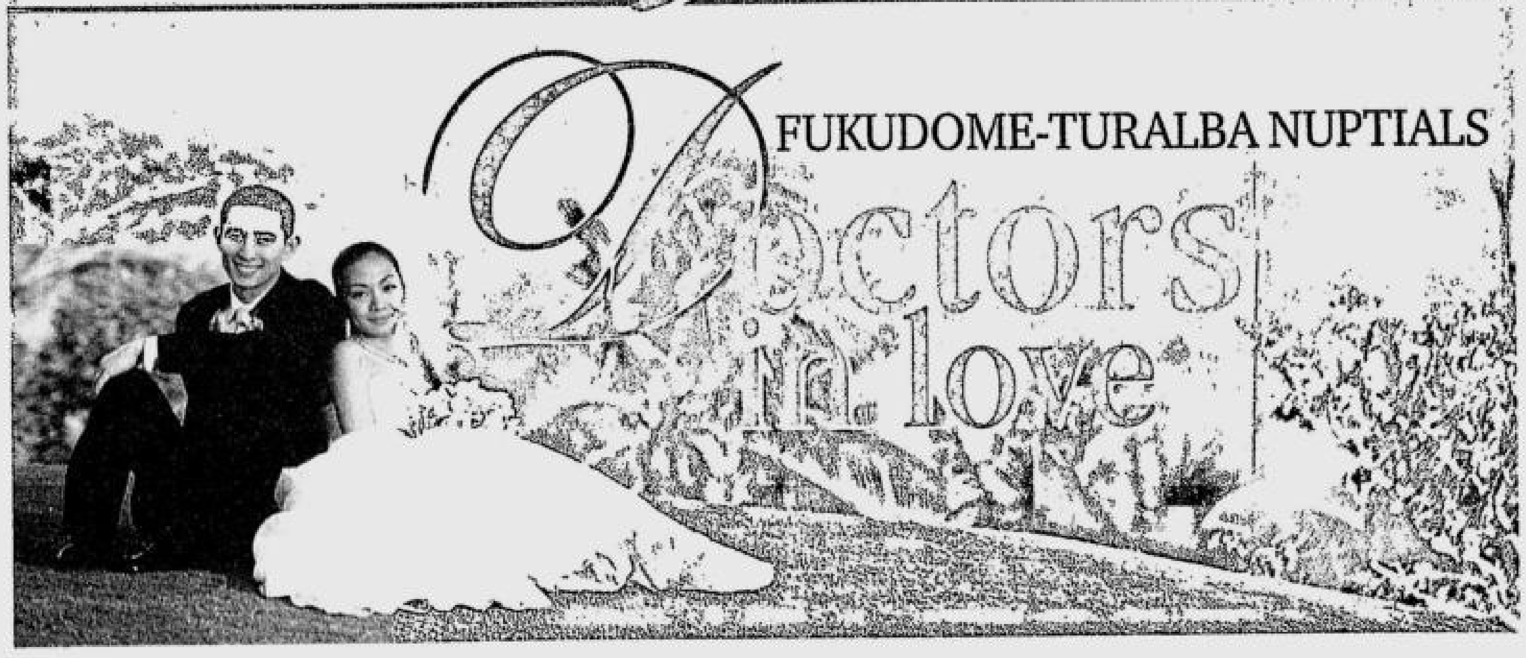


## FUKUDOME-TURALBA NUPTIALS

# Doctors in love

FROM THE ESTEEMED halls of Brown University in Rhode Island, where they were pursuing their respective promising medical practice, Angela Turalba and Eugene Fukudome crossed the Pacific to become man and wife at the splendid San Sebastian Cathedral in Lipa City, Batangas.

The week before the wedding saw the young couple in a whirlwind of activities. The two gave dinners for close friends and relatives at Gyumon and Sentro in Makati; then they were feted in a barrio fiesta held at the Turalba residence in Lipa where traditional Filipino cuisine was served and folk dancers delighted guests.

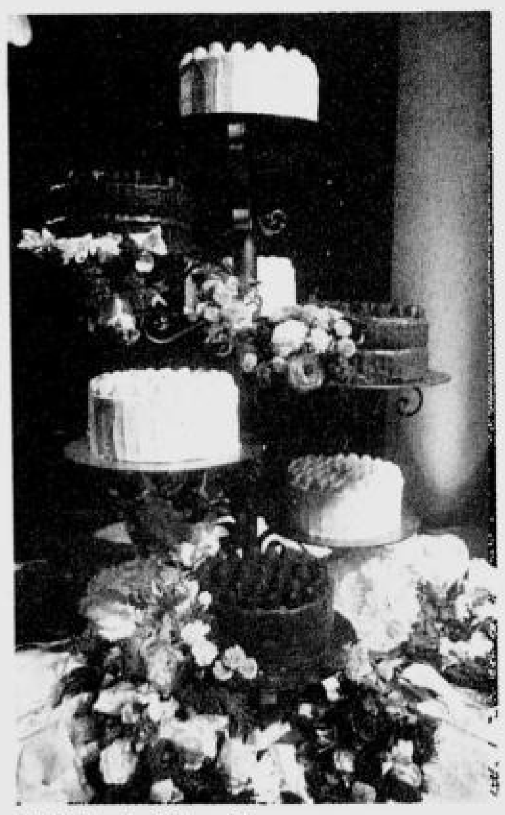
On the day of the wedding, Angela enthralled everyone as she, in a Carolina Herrera bridal gown, sauntered into the cathedral for the wedding march, while the groom, even more handsome in his Hugo Boss suit, waited.

In a quiet ceremony, Angela and Eugene exchanged wedding vows and slipped the wedding bands from Tiffany's into each other's fingers to seal their vows.

The groom's parents, Toshihiro and Connie Fukudome, beamed with pride and approval, as did the bride's parents, Antonio Turalba Sr. and Maria Cristina Valera Turalba, both architects of the Active Group of Companies.

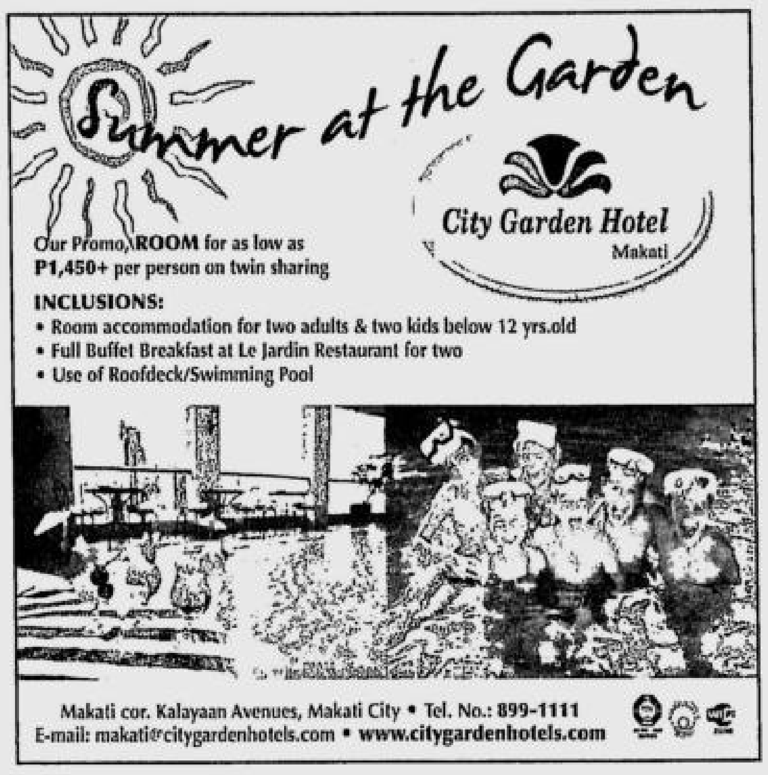
With the breathtaking mountain range as backdrop, the newlyweds welcomed guests at the elegant Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club for the reception. The club's culinary team prepared a lavish spread of traditional Filipino and Continental cuisine, with sumptuous Japanese delights created by the chefs from Tanabe Restaurant. The wedding cake, a layer of chocolate and strawberry shortcake sprinkled

DOCTORS/ F4



**CAKE** by chef Heny Sison

**EUGENE** Fukudome and Angela Turalba



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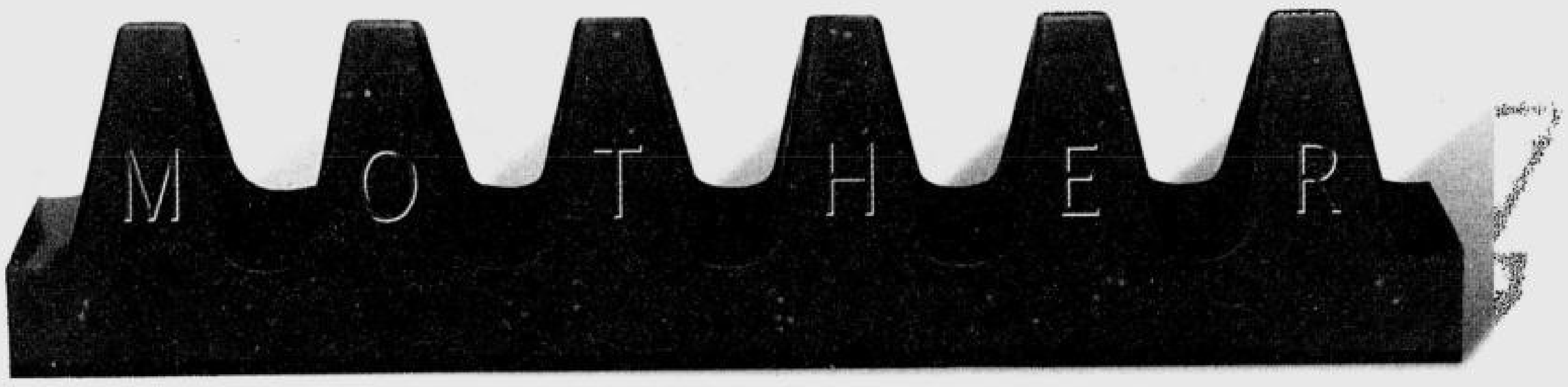

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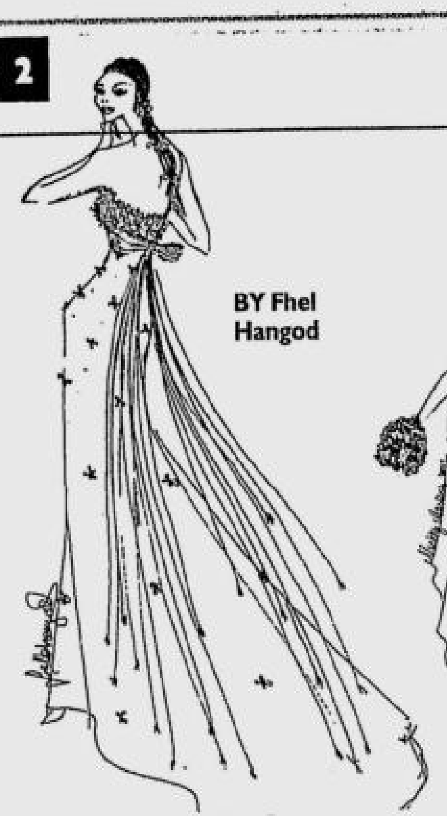
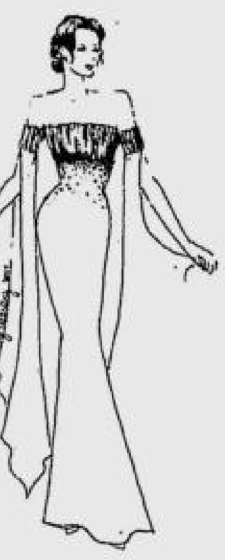




BY Fhel Hangod

# *Breakfast parties by the bay*

HOLDING A MORNING reception could very well be a nice change of pace for everyone. Breakfast parties can be fun and less formal than dinner affairs.

But, no matter how formal or informal the wedding is, there should be an air of relaxation. The attire, table setting and food create this atmosphere.

Holding your wedding against the backdrop of Manila Bay while feasting on gourmet concoctions is always a pleasure.

1 Esplanade, the new venue at SM Central Business Park, Seaside corner Bay Boulevard in Pasay, introduces its Breakfast Promo Package for weddings, private parties and corporate events. Priced at P150,000, this package for 200 guests includes an air-conditioned venue with food and catering services. A Congee Station, Assorted Bread or Panini or Crepe Station, Cereal Bar, Egg Station or On-the-Spot Cooking-Omelette Bar, Filipino Breakfast Menu, free-flowing fruit juices and coffee blends are featured. Choose from any of the specially planned buffet and set menus by I Esplanade's culinary partners such as Albergus Catering, Aramico's Catering, Auffrance Catering, Batis Asul Caterers, Better Pan Catering, Eloquente Catering, Henry's Catering Services, Hizon's Catering, Josiah's Catering, Inc., Juan Carlo The Caterer, Manila Catering Services, Tamayo's Catering, The Plaza and VS&F Classic Food International.

Sample their specialties at Morning Weddings & Events on May 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1 Esplanade (near SM Mall of Asia). Register at www.chu-u-yen com for reservation and free entrance. Call 6185092 or 0919-6810600.

**FAIRYTALE** wedding gowns by FWDP members Michelle Lim, Jerome Ang, Joel Escober and Ruel Rivera

**BEACH** wedding by FWDP members Joel Bautista, Susie Bonaobra, Randall Solomon and Dennis Martin

# Fantasy weddings

WEDDINGS USED TO BE strictly traditional affairs. But now, brides are becoming more adventurous, especially in their choice of wedding gowns.

Members of the Fashions by the Wedding Designers of the Philippines say this is a trend not likely to wane. "Weddings are meant to be fun, a day for the bride and groom to indulge in their fantasies," says FWDP president Michelle Lim.

Thus, the FWDP presents its 2007 Wedding Collection by Edwin Uy (tel. no. 5329369), Susie Bonaobra (6317806), Joel Bautista (7581353 and 7570811), Ruel Rivera (9485480), Jerome Ang (2520067), Dennis Martin (4273039), Michelle Lim (4335864 and 4339352), Carmen Lazaro (4179482 and 2998604), Randall Solomon (8315219 and 632-8347328), Joel Escober (8732070 and 8007558), Shanon Pamaong (6355383) and Delby P. Bragais (6354964).

Photographed by Louie Allan, Allan Borras, Lito Genilo, Richel Mascarinas, and Dino Lara of the Wedding Photographers of the Philippines at Hacienda Isabella in Tagaytay, the FWDP wedding collection draws its inspiration from the beach, fairytales and the Victorian Era.

Art direction and fashion styling was done by Noel Manapat; hair and makeup by Tonet Chua, Jackie Rivera, Rolex Rivera, Edgar Soriano, Teddy Mendoza and Gay Fermin-Honrade.

**VICTORIAN** Era-inspired bridal gowns by Edwin Uy, Shanon Pamaong, Carmen Lazaro and Delby Bragais

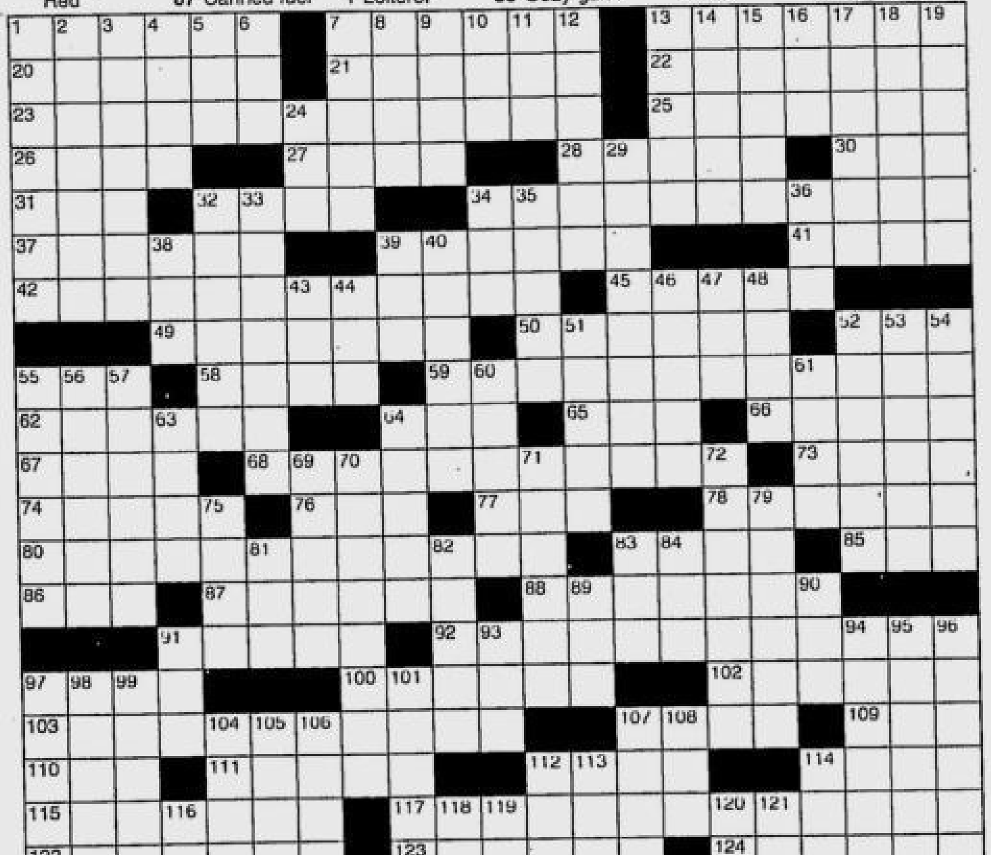
# SUNDAY CROSSWORD

## PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

## CONCLUSIONS

ACROSS
1 Machine shop tools
7 Write messily
13 NutraSweet alternative
20 Vietnam War general Creighton
21 Shrub with funnel-shaped flowers
22 Loom users
23 Cloth leg covering of higher quality?
25 False names
26 Pinup's legs
27 Make bucks
28 Epee cousin
30 Communist leader Mao — -tung
31 Bustle
32 Fabric flaws
34 X-ed out price?
37 Advance again
39 Reacts to pain or a pun
41 Prohibition proponents
42 Uncertainty about water shortage?
45 Firefighter Red
49 Coffee shop relative
50 Wimsey creator Dorothy
52 — loss for words
55 Lobbying org.
58 Off-Broadway prize
59 Poor person who's prim?
62 Grads
64 — -mo (replay technique)
65 Period
66 "If I Had a Hammer" singer Lopez
67 Supplication
68 Unknown flavor that's finally been identified?
73 Salon jobs
74 War hero Murphy
76 Essen expletive
77 Piercing target
78 Geronimo, for one
80 Doughnut's shade?
83 Additionally
85 Snaky shape
86 Opposite of "nope"
87 Canned fuel
88 Paint mixing board
91 "— bleu!" (French oath)
92 Surging mass of scouring pads?
97 Church part
100 Delicacies
102 When many network news shows start
103 Coat honkers with oil?
107 — terrier (Scottish breed)
109 Cat treater
110 Witch's spell
111 Witty Oscar
112 1968 U.S. Open winner Arthur
114 Flying start?
115 On both sides of
117 Boozed-up "Macbeth" character?
122 Rise sharply
123 Sudden raid
124 All fancy
125 Wobbles
126 Pollutes
127 Trolls' kin

DOWN
1 Loiterer
2 Erosive agent
3 Violin effect
4 Actor Lukas
5 Pro at CPR
6 Sheffield-to-London dir.
7 Heroic tales
8 Old autocrat
9 BBQ spoiler
10 Model Carol
11 Diminutive
12 "The Far Side" creator Gary
13 Large mops
14 Destructive Martinique volcano
15 Wealthy Scottish landowner
16 Gabor of "Gigi"
17 Greek sage
18 Black-tie
19 Tax form list
24 Agent, for short
29 Analyzing chemists
32 Keep surging furiously
33 Dwell in
34 Corn holder
35 "Midnight Cowboy" character
36 USN VIP
38 Umpire's cry
39 Oozy gunk
40 Crush into wrinkles
43 Angle lead-in
44 Buck mate
46 Rid of rodents
47 Dada artist Jean
48 "The wolf — the door"
51 "... partridge in — tree"
52 Individually
53 Tithers' fractions
54 Stems (from)
55 Pontiff's office
56 Fascination
57 Ready to be played, as a tape
60 Bull-riding event
61 Stellar bear
63 Postmarked pieces
64 "Danke —!"
69 Less usual
70 Grew together
71 La Brea attraction
72 Oakland locale
75 Schiaparelli of fashion
79 Dress size
81 List-limiting abbr.
82 77-Across parts
83 Right-angled bend
84 Durocher of the diamond
89 Pacino and Gore
90 Puck, e.g.
91 Briny body
93 "Norma —"
94 Device that continuously broadcasts in real time on the Net
95 Partook of too much
96 Brand of moist wipes
97 In shock
98 Magic word
99 Trio doubled
101 Blue-pencil again
104 Filch
105 Marine duck
106 Valleys
107 Lean-tos
108 Male doll
112 In a while
113 32-card game
114 A.D. part
116 Emeritus: Abbr.
118 Transfer —
119 Mr. Geller
120 Akita, e.g.
121 Big vase



answer on page F3

# *Milestones*

*We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the* INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

## ZAMORA-NEBAB

**Paolo Zamora**, son of **Alexander Cesar** and **Girlie Zamora**, exchanged vows recently with **Gladys Nebab**, daughter of **Evelio** and **Edna Nebab**, at the Mango Farm Mambugan, Antipolo. The bride wore an ecru Swiss floral lace front-pleated empire cut bustier with serpentina pieces cut skirt with 2½ meters cathedral train embellished with pearls, beads, cutglass crystals and Swarovski stones designed by **Leonard Co.**

## PUNSALAN-NILO

**Emil Punsalan**, son of **Bernardino** and **Rosalina Punsalan** exchanged vows recently with **Reccesa Nilo**, daughter of **Heliodoro** and **Zenaida Nilo** at St. Joseph the Worker Chapel, Clarkfield Pampanga. Reception was held at Mar's Garden Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga.

## GALE-MAGNO

**Antonio V. Gale, Jr.**, son of **Antonio, Sr.** and **Pacita Gale** will wed **Clarissa R. Magno**, only daughter of **Antero** and **Romana Magno** on May 12 at St. Joseph Cathedral in Alaminos City, Pangasinan. Reception will be held at Villa Jireh Japheth Holistic Resort Hotel, Labrador, Pangasinan.

## RONSAYRO-SOPEÑA

**Rodney Ronsayro**, son of Dr. **Bonifacio** and **Teresita Padilla Ronsayro**, and **Lynda Sopeña**, daughter of **Benito** and **Rosalinda Ynchausti Sopeña** were married recently at the Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Tagaytay. The reception was held at Josephine's Restaurant in Tagaytay. The bride's gown was designed by **Frankie de Leon.**

# *Marian floral parade today*

CAMILLE A. VILLAR, THE youngest daughter of Sen. Manny Villar and Rep. Cynthia Villar, will reign as "Rosa Mystica" at the Rajah Sulaiman Park, Malate, Manila during the Flores de Mayo 2007 today by the Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus headed by Ben Farrales. Camille will wear a gown by Nolie Hans.

Sponsored by the Department of Tourism, City of Manila, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Unilever Philippines, and Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines, the Flores de Mayo procession will wind along Roxas Blvd. Awarding ceremony is at the Puerta Real Gardens, Intramuros.

**CAMILLE** Villar

PURELY PERSONAL
*Josephine Darang*

# Catholics mark 90th Fatima anniversary

AS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH marks the 90th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal in 1917, Mexico passed a law allowing abortion up to three months of pregnancy and requiring hospitals to give free service to the poor.

Earlier, on the death anniversary of Sister Lucia, one of the three children to whom the Virgin appeared, Portugal passed an abortion law.

Pro-life advocates worry that the same thing can happen here. Although House Bill No. 3773, Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act, does not expressly mention abortion, they say it will encourage contraception, which is opposed by the Catholic Church.

The Rosary for Life members pray the rosary one hour a week to prevent the approval of the bill.

Meanwhile, the National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Marulas, Valenzuela, will celebrate the anniversary of the apparitions.

Holy relics of Blessed Jacinta Marto and Blessed Francisco Marto, who were with Lucia when the Virgin appeared in Fatima in Portugal, was venerated yesterday after the dawn procession.

Novena Masses, preceded by novena prayers, on May 4 started 6:30 p.m. A Marian exhibit will open May 6 at Museo Valenzuela. Schedule of concelebrated High Masses is May 12, 6:30 p.m., Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, Caloocan; May 13, 9 a.m., Msgr. Josefino Ramirez of the Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo, and 6:30 p.m., Malolos Bishop José Francisco Oliveros.

Procession of the national pilgrim image of the Virgin of Fatima will be at 7:30 p.m.

The World Apostolate of Fatima National Shrine Chapter is *hermana mayor*. Msgr. Moises Andrade is rector and parish priest.

## In memoriam

The late Ambassador to Russia Alex Melchor, like his widow Charito, was a devotee of Our Lady of Fatima. Charito remembers how they first met in Washington DC on New Year's Eve in 1950 in the house of Tomas Benitez, Philippine consul.

Charito thinks she and Alex must have been brought together by Our Lady. They visited Fatima separately that year.

The statue of Our Lady of Fatima, carved by the late ambassador himself, was enthroned during the blessing May 1 of St. Joseph Church by Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes.

The church was built by the Melchor family on a 1.5-hectare property in Barrio San José, Baras, Rizal.

Charito said, "We built St. Joseph Church in Alex's memory and in honor of his patron saint, St. Joseph the Worker. A livelihood center, a Gawad Kalinga housing village and a school run by Mater Dei sisters to provide free education for [poor] children will soon be established."

## Ermita fiesta

Novena Masses for Nuestra Señora de Guia will be on May 10-18, 6 p.m. Bishop Bernardino Cortez will officiate at the Concelebrated Mass May 19, 6 p.m., after the *bota flores*. Theme is "Sacramentis Caritatis" or sacrament of charity.

The feast day, May 19, is when a Spanish soldier discovered in 1571 the Virgin atop a *pandan* bush being venerated by natives.

## Sta. Ana fiesta

The Sta. Ana Church where Our Lady of the Abandoned is enshrined had the first Novena Mass on May 3, including a floral offering at the church patio. May 12 is the feast day of the Virgin. A Marian exhibit is ongoing at the *camarin*.

## Book of miracles

The second edition of "Little Stories of Faith" is being prepared by Our Lady of Peñafrancia devotees in time for the Naga fiesta in September.

The book collates miracles wrought by God through *Ina*'s intercession. At the helm of the project are Ming Bernas, Eva Peñamora and Guia Imperial who wrote the first edition. Stories may be sent to mingvbernas@yahoo.com.

## 'Bigasan'

Some 472 parishes in 61 dioceses are being helped by Malacañang's Office of Religious Affairs through the "Bigasan para sa Parokya" project that began two years ago. Each parish gets P15,000 to buy rice from the National Food Authority. At the beginning of the project, rice was sold P14 per kilo. It was later increased to P18, still low compared to the regular price of P22 per kilo in the market.

## 'Kerygma TV'

Bo Sanchez's "Kerygma TV" on Channel 5 will be aired 10:30 p.m. every Tuesday starting May 8. The program is produced by Shepherd's Voice and TV Foundation. Bo's new book, "8 Secrets of the Truly Rich," is now available at National Book Store.

## New priest

Most Rev. Camilo Gregorio of the Prelature of Batanes will ordain Rev. Ronaldo Berber Manabat priest on May 7, 1:30 p.m., at the Archdiocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Guia. Manabat took up Philosophy at Christ the King Mission Seminary and Theology at Maryhill School of Theology.

## Tribe

The Mindanao Benedictine-Cistercian Convention (MBCC) was held recently at the Monastery of the Transfiguration in Malaybalay, Bukidnon. Theme was "Inter-faith Dialogue and Benedictine Spirituality." All Benedictine and Cistercian communities gather for the MBCC to renew themselves as they offer Pax Benedicta to the people of Mindanao.

Participants visited the non-Christian indigenous Talaandig tribe in Songco, Lantapan, and were welcomed by Datu Migketay, Bai Nanapnay and the community in colorful ceremonies.

Guest speakers were Cubao Bishop Honesto Pacana and Fr. David Lavich, OCSO. MBCC's new officers are Dom Martin de Jesus Gomez, OSB, chair; Sr. Geraldine Flores, OSB, vice chair; Mother Giovanna Garbelli, OCSO, treasurer; and Sr. Maribel Ortega, OSB, secretary.

## Mass

Healing priest Fr. Joey Faller of Lucban, Quezon, will hold a Healing Mass May 10, 9 a.m., at Jesus the Divine Healer Parish, Tahanan Village, Sucat, Parañaque City, as part of the nine-day novena of Masses leading up to the fiesta on May 13. Bishop Teodoro Bacani celebrates High Mass at 6 p.m.

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EMILY'S POST
*Emily Marcelo*

# Moneybags, not a knight in shining armor, to his wife

DEAR EMILY,

I met Rowena at a not-so-nice place and I thank God I was able to get her out of that place.

I offered to marry her. She was 18 years old then. I have been her husband, best friend and lover since. My work requires me to travel to a city two hours away from where we live.

I gave her all the kindness and love, plus financial support. I gave her money to pay for the rent and a monthly budget. I even set up a business for her, a computer shop.

I also took care of her sister's tuition.

She got pregnant even though I slept with her no more than two times between August last year and March this year. She went to a good hospital and I paid for all the expenses.

When I asked her aunt about Rowena's business, she answered that Rowena had none! The aunt and a grandfather said they wanted to talk to me. It was then I discovered a lot of disgusting things.

Rowena, my wife, has had a live-in relationship since our marriage. She had no sister who needed money for tuition and no computer-shop business.

Her live-in boyfriend is, in fact, the person who was getting the money intended for the "sister" she was supposedly sending to school.

I felt like I was punched in the stomach. My wife told me these lies after I rescued her from hell.

The aunt told me the guy had lived with Rowena since she was 18 and that they had a kid. It would have been better if they just killed me after I heard this story.

My problem is I do not know whose child she gave birth to. I cannot have a DNA test done to establish parentage as it costs P63,000 at St. Luke's Medical Center and other hospitals I have gone to. Rowena and I have the same blood type, A+, and the kid's is A.

Shall I demand they pay back all the money they got from me through their lies that totals about P700,000?

Her relatives said this boyfriend beats Rowena. They also said if I did not acknowledge the child, they would throw it in the garbage or dump it in an orphanage.

Rowena told them, they said, that the child was really mine.

What should I do? Can you recommend a lawyer to take my case and do you know of a cheaper alternative to DNA testing?

AMER

You have been had! These leeches took advantage of your vulnerability as a foreigner in this country and, the most damning—as a man in love.

You cannot do anything about the seven hundred grand you lost, but you can cut your losses by leaving this woman cold turkey and kiss her lies goodbye immediately.

However, there is a high probability that you are the father of this baby, according to a renowned pathologist who gave an educated guess based on the blood types you mentioned.

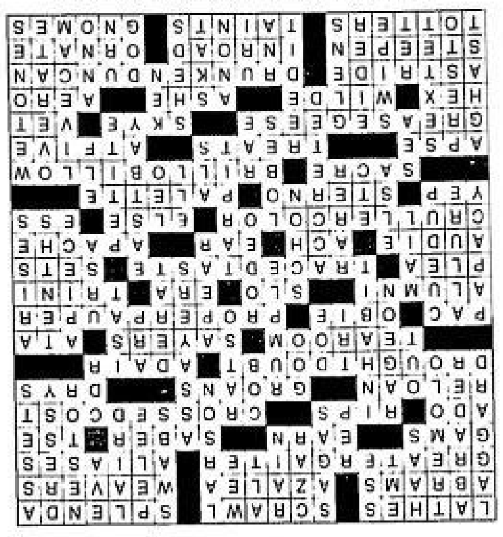
You have to spend for DNA testing, if only for your peace of mind and to keep them from subjecting you to emotional blackmail.

For the moment, do yourself a favor and forget about the phantom sister's tuition and the nonexistent computer business. Stop flushing down the toilet your hard-earned money by giving it to these heartless, scheming people.

They have sucked enough from you already. It is about time they lost their ATM card—you!

*E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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**NEWLYWEDS** with Racquel Cruz, Doreen Yu, Rita Patterson, Rosemarie Frondoso, Fidelia Panlilio, Lolita Fansler, Teodoro Salud, Victor Alimurung, Dean Patterson, Arnulfo Fuentebella, Marcos Panlilio, Robert Fansler

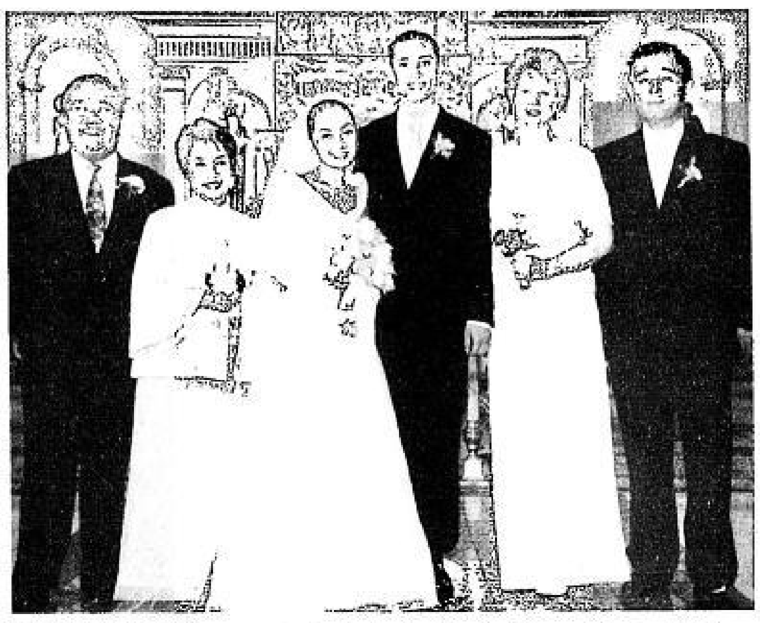
# Doctors in love

**WITH MARIE** Fukudome, Shirine Nassery, Alexeis Almonte, Abigail May, Annalia Gabrielle T. Fuentebella, Nasser Ibar Khan, Fumiaki Tosu, Sutchin Patel, Hihashi Alexander Shimizu, José Antonio Turalba; (front row) Arianna Francesca Turalba, Anna Micaela Turalba, Gabriel Matsoen Widjaja

From page F1

with chocolate truffles, was especially created by Heny Sison. The floral arrangements of roses and orchids were designed by Antonio Padilla of Floral Designs.

As a way of expressing gratitude, the couple presented guests with dainty fans made out of handmade paper and traditional Japanese *shiawase* candies in floral silk pouches to signify happiness. Certainly auspicious sweet somethings for a young and good-looking pair of lovebirds.



**WITH THE** bride's parents, Antonio A. Turalba Sr. and Maria Cristina V. Turalba, and the groom's parents, Connie and Toshihiro Fukudome

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PediaSure mom Christine Jacob-Sandejas with daughter Gabby

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1. Promo is open to all mothers with children aged 1 to 10 years old.
2. To join, mothers are required to:
   - Write a first-hand account of how she deals with her hard-to-feed child/children and how PediaSure helped in making her child/children healthier (maximum of two pages double-spaced).
   - Attach a copy of her picture with her hard-to-feed child/children.
   - Enclose an Official Receipt from any store, as proof of purchase of at least 1 PediaSure product.
   - 1 Story + 1 Picture +1 Official Receipt = 1 Entry
3. All entries must be sent either by regular mail to: "PEDIASURE CIRCLE OF SURE MOMS" c/o PND Marketing Department, Abbott Laboratories, 102 EDSA corner Madison St., Mandaluyong City or via e-mail to: pediasuremoms.ph@abbott.com.
4. Five winning entries will be chosen based on the following criteria:
   - Impact of PediaSure on the children (i.e. in terms of improvement in height & weight) = 50%
   - Creativity, style and manner of the moms' writing =50%
5. Each winner will receive Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000) as a cash prize. Plus their stories and pictures will be featured in leading magazines and/or newspapers as part of the "Hard-to- Feed Files" (1 print ad release per winner). All cash prizes are tax-free and non-transferable.
6. Promo period starts on March 15, 2007 and ends on May 31, 2007. The deadline of entries is on May 31, 2007 at 12:00 midnight.
7. The entries chosen will undergo a verification process before they are proclaimed as winners. Letters of notification will be sent to the winners by the 2nd week of June. The letters will indicate when, where and how the winners can claim their prizes. Winners must bring the notification letter and any official I.D.
8. Winners must claim their prizes within 60 days from the date of receipt of the notification letter. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of the notification letter will be forfeited, with prior approval from a BFAD official in favor of Abbott Corporation. The winners declared by BFAD, Abbott Corporation and its representatives are final.
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STAR and director take five during the shoot.

# Binoe goes global

**By Bayani San Diego Jr.**

## Ato Bautista's 'Blackout,' starring Robin Padilla, showing in int'l festivals

ATO BAUTISTA'S PSYCHOlogical thriller "Blackout," the follow-up to his acclaimed debut, "Sa Aking Pagkakagising Mula sa Kamulatan," is making the rounds of international film festivals.

Produced by Unitel Pictures, "Blackout" top-bills Robin Padilla and Iza Calzado. It is set to open locally on June 13.

Bautista, who co-wrote the screenplay with Shugo Praico, describes his new film as "a cross-breed of the horror and psychological thriller" genres.

### The goal

"Japan, Thailand and Korea made waves abroad with horror movies. I precisely wanted to veer away from that. My goal is to present myself as a Filipino filmmaker abroad," he tells INQUIRER Entertainment.

Thus far, "Blackout" has been shown in the San Francisco Asian-American (March 15-25) and the Indianapolis Film Festivals (April 25-May 4), and will be screened in the New York Asian-American International Film Festival (July 19-28), the Asian Film Festival of Dallas (Aug. 23-30) and the Goteberg film fest in Sweden next year.

Bautista is no stranger to the film fest circuit. "Sa Aking Pagkakagising" was an official selection in the avant-garde section of the Mar del Plata film fest in Argentina and the Split film fest in Croatia. It also competed in the new filmmakers section of the Warsaw film fest in Poland.

### Pinoy touch

In "Blackout," he intended to show a different kind of Filipino to audiences here and abroad.

While other local filmmakers would highlight poverty and the plight of OFWs, he focused on "the color palette, camera movement and acting" as elements that would lend a distinct Filipino touch to his movie.

"It's very technical," he explains. "Japanese and Korean movies use soft, cold lighting. Thai films, lots of yellows and greens. Mexican movies are the closest to Pinoys—very warm and tropical, with lots of colors and pastels."

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| SPIDER-MAN 3<br>G<br>11:40,2:40,5:40,<br>8:40,11:30 | FIREHOUSE DOG<br>G<br>12:10,3:10,9:10 | SPIDER-MAN 3<br>G<br>1:40,4:40,7:40,10:40 |

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# Generally und

BEFORE IT HAD ITS FIRST TELECAST last April 29, GMA-7's new show biz-oriented talk show, "Show Biz Central," promised that it would alter the landscape of its specialized field, with new approaches and features designed to excite viewers.

To see what the promised excitement was all about, we caught the show's first telecast, and found that the program featured the standard local show biz *chismis*, scandals, exposes, "hot from the horses' mouths" interviews, and stellar on-cam confrontations.

Nothing much that was new there, but hold your horses: "Show Biz Central" did feature stories about US Entertainment news and gossip, with fresh video clips to make them more exciting.

Other show biz talk shows don't have this, so it was indeed something new that the program could legitimately boast about.

After a while, however, we were struck by the similarity between local and "imported" or "Stateside" gossip—its small-mindedness, predictability and smarminess.

Yes, the erring American celebrities were bigger names in world entertainment, but when push came to shove, th were as t riety.

Anoth on "Shov of comr creditabl **Shirley**

Unfor warm u their "sp the blan will play they cou welcom

A thir show's r hosts—I **Gutierr** do passa odd pers

This i hosting less self-

All to tral" was really "ai biz repo show li soon!

### Bands

CUBA at Starm 18, Fusi on May

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# 2 RP fil

By Marinel R. Cruz

TWO FILIPINO FILMS AR ting in the fourth Con-C Festival, an online short fi in Japan this month.

Khavn dela Cruz's "C pers" and Nick Olanka's " Sorrow" are up against short films from around th the Fiction 2 category.

"Can & Slippers" is ab from the slums who pla with an empty can as s "Monday" is about the re woman scorned. Both awards in other worldwid

The other films under Fi Carlos Ceacero's "The Ho del Arco's "To Die To Sleep Guillermo Rios' "Nasija" Touceda's "The Clearing" Spain); Marie Miyayama Weekend," Petra Schoeder's Buds" and Claire Walka's " d-aspres-midi" (Germany): Nien's "Old Woman (Singa Ross' "Meat" and Nadej Z

---

**COLUMBIA Pictures, distrib reports that the Tobey Magu million on its first day, "the a and best single-day record [i are less than impressed. The**

# Binoe goe

**From page G1**

In "Blackout," a tropic gleaned from the images. and earth colors. For inst Robin and Iza."

### Crucial factor

Location was also cruci been looking for five days a apartment compound alo near my Anonas home, by

It was right under his ments was vacated four shoot."

Movement is also impor be constant camera moven feeling that something is al

Shot on Panasonic Vari era, the movie often made (or electromechanical doll

He explains: "A Magnun on tracks and allows the c but the movement is measu

### Cast support

He was also very particu

In this department, his l port.

"Robin, who was my id Pinoy' and 'Barumbado' d Two weeks before the sho costumes. Three days befo in L Apartments."

The script was written w "I wanted someone who lo has great potential as an a

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# erwhelming start for 'Show Biz Central'

eir "sins" of commission and omission
rite and tacky as our homegrown va-

er relatively new feature
v Biz Central" is its panel
nentators, made of the
e likes of **Mo Twister** and
uan.
unately, they had yet to
in the first telecast, so
icy" comments were on
l side. We hope that they
it less safe soon, or else
ld quickly overstay their

l innovation of sorts is the
elatively young panel of
ia **Guanio, Raymond**
z and **John Lapus.** Pia and Raymond
bly well, but Lapus turns out to be the
on out in this hosting lineup.
because his skittish and idiosyncratic
style runs counter to the other hosts'
nvolved way of doing things.
d, the first telecast of "Show Biz Cen-
generally underwhelming, and didn't
ter the landscape" as far as local show
tage is concerned. Let's hope that the
es up to its potential blurbs—real

### at Starmall

Libre Latin Bar, KTV and Restaurant
all Edsa, brings in Freedom on May
n on May 11, 19 and 25, Streetbeat
13, 20 and 27, and En Masse on May 12 and 26.

Cuba Libre at Starmall Las Piñas features Zynergy every Friday, Freedom every Saturday and Comedy Night every Sunday.

VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

### The gang's all here

WARNER Bros reunites "Ocean's" gang led by **George Clooney, Brad Pitt** and **Matt Damon** in "Ocean's Thirteen."

In the third "Ocean" movie, the gang has only one reason to pull off their biggest casino heist—to defend one of their own. But, they're going to need more than just luck to do it.

Ruthless casino owner Willy Bank (**Al Pacino**) is the gang's nemesis this time around. After he double-crosses Danny Ocean's friend and mentor (**Elliot Gould**), the gang plots to ruin him, both financially and psychologically. The plan is elaborate, dangerous and almost impossible to pull off, but there are no limits to the gang when it's on revenge mode. "Ocean's Thirteen" also stars **Andy Garcia, Don Cheadle, Bernie Mac, Casey Affleck, Scott Caan, Carl Reiner** and **Ellen Burstyn.**

### British Council exhibit

THE BRITISH Council hosts an exhibition of wall bound works by **Datu Arellano, Marc Cosico** and **Don Salubayba** until May 24 at the council's Knowledge Learning Center.

The three artists have been invited to exhibit their works and perform at the prestigious Kirkcudbright International Arts Festival in Scotland this July. Call 914-1011 to 14.

### Joaqui goes bossa

WITH bossa nova as the current rage among some female vocalists, a male interpreter was bound to come along—and he has, in the person of new viva talent **Joaqui.**

His solo debut CD titled "The Jazzanova Project" has two familiar pop tunes and one original with jazzy vocal technique against mostly bossa nova arrangements.

## ns in Japan fest

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Yoshihiro Aragaki's "The Tradition" (Japan); Lin-Tay-Jou's "Bardo" (Taiwan); Sevada's "Mikosh" (Armenia); Eric Chin's "Strong Spirits" (China); Aaron Yonda and Matt Sloan's "Chad Vader: Day Shift Manager" (USA); Maarit Koskiner's "Pappa" (Finland); and Julia Ruskiewicz's "Wild Duck Season" (Poland).

A total of 80 films in three categories—fiction, animation, documentary—were selected, subtitled and streamed for global viewing. Four—two for fiction, one animation and one documentary—will be chosen for the Global Audience Award through public voting. Winners will receive $1,000 each (according to the festival website, www.con-can.com) and are automatic nominees for the Grand Prix Award, with a cash prize of $10,000.

A five-member international jury and the audience ratings will determine the winner of the Con-can Grand Prix and Tamashii awards. Two short films will receive the Tamashii Award and a cash prize of $2,000 each.

**utor of "Spider-Man 3,"
re starrer grossed P58.6
l-time biggest opening day
the Philippines]." Critics
full review tomorrow.**

## s global

l Gothic aesthetic can be
"We used a lot of browns
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l, he points out. "We had
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e, he moved into and lived

th Iza in mind, he recalls.
ks like Hilda Koronel. She
ress."

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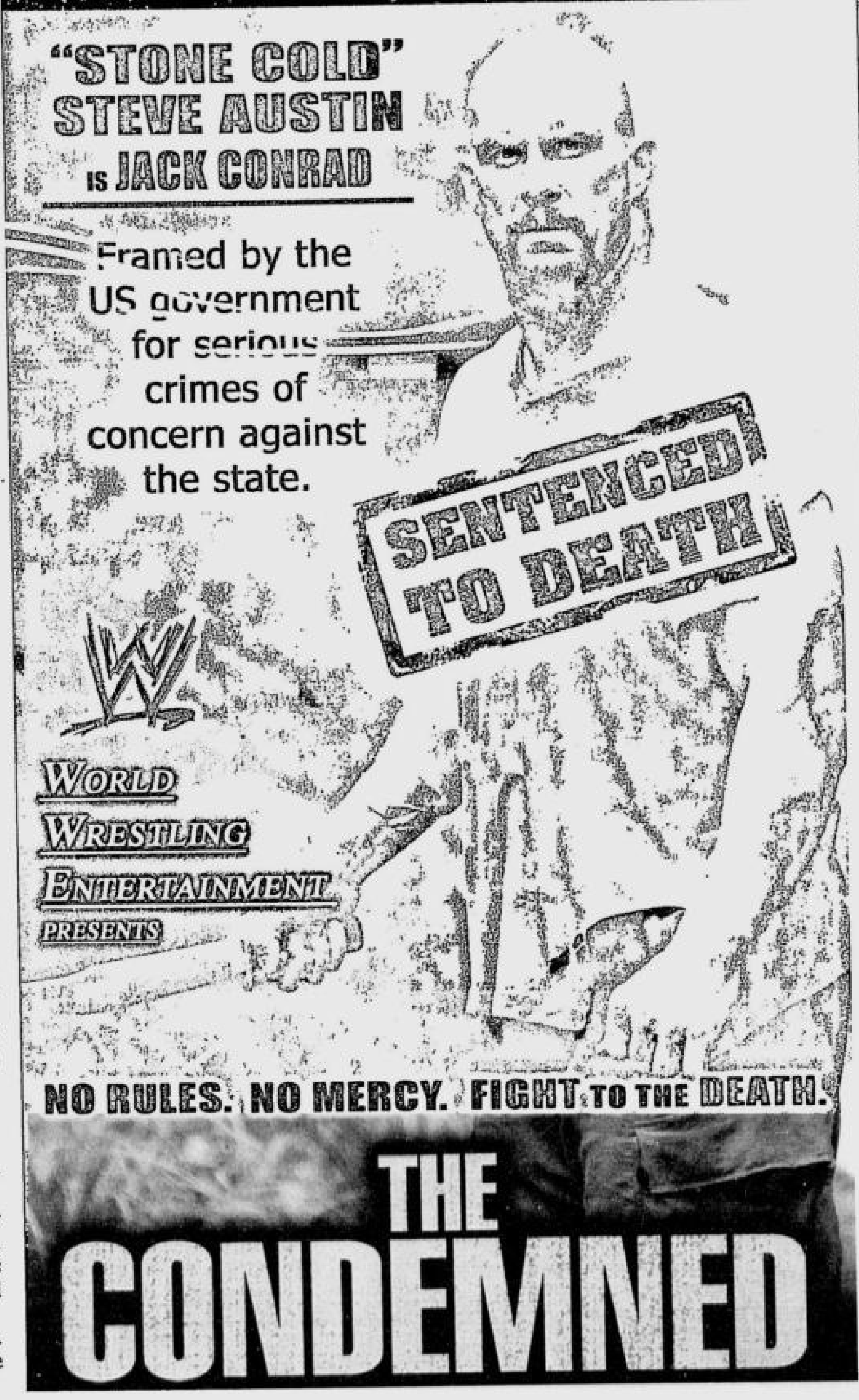

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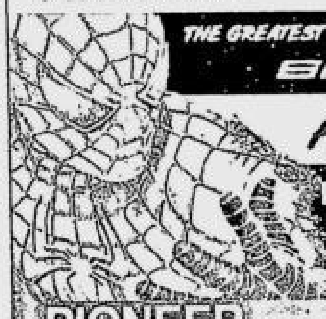

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# How kissing Piolo affected Regine

NEW YORK—OVER THE PAST week and a half, hundreds of filmmakers and actors have descended upon downtown New York City for the sixth annual Tribeca Film Festival.

Among those who left memorable impressions were an "Entourage" star-turned-director, a child actor all grown up, and a Mexican heartthrob-turned-documentarian. Each one spoke with The Associated Press.

## ANNA PAQUIN

Born in Canada, raised in New Zealand and currently living in New York, Anna Paquin may have a rootless life. But in "Blue State," she plays a very American character who's fleeing the country after the reelection of President George W. Bush in 2004.

The 24-year-old says she's not especially political. "I've actually never voted because I don't live anywhere I'm allowed to."

## DIEGO LUNA

To the female fans of Diego Luna (and there are many), that the actor would hide himself and stay off camera is an injustice.

But the 27-year-old Mexican star of the internationally hailed "Y Tu Mama Tambien" (2001) did just that. At Tribeca, Luna premiered his directorial debut "Chavez," a documentary on the legendary Mexican boxer Julio Cesar Chavez.

Of filmmaking, Luna says: "I never went to school [to learn]. A documentary gives you [more freedom] to tell a story."

## KEVIN CONNOLLY

The North America premiere of "Spider-Man 3" at Tribeca may have drawn the most attention, but the more interesting superhero movie was Connolly's "The Gardener of Eden."

ANNA Paquin AP

Connolly, who plays Eric Murphy on HBO's "Entourage," premiered his directorial debut at Tribeca, where it was well received and found attention from distributors. That's in part because two of Connolly's friends played key roles in making the movie: Leonardo DiCaprio co-produced and Lukas Haas ("Last Days," "Brick") stars.

"It was just like three great friends going to work together," says Connolly.

KEVIN Connolly AP

## RUSHES

### Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week (and why we are moved, if we are moved):

- Maritoni Fernandez, *arestado sa* shoplifting.
- Maritoni, *tumangging* shoplifter.
- Maritoni, *hindi na idedemanda ng* Shopwise.
- P10M *itinapon ni* Judy Ann Santos *dahil kay* Kiko (Pangilinan). (Huh?)
- P10M *tinanggihan ni* Judy Ann *para sa libreng kampanya ni* Kiko! (Ah.)
- Juday *inisnab ang* P10M, *pero libre lang kay* Sharon.
- Sharon, *naiyak sa tulong nina* Juday *at* Ryan.
- *Hindi raw siya kaibigan ni* Susan Roces? *"Ang alam ko, minahal ko siya at minahal niya ako"* —Sharon.
- Lino *ni* KC, *okey kay* Sharon.
- Sharon, *handa na sa pagpapakasal ni* KC. (*Bilis naman.*)
- Regine Velasquez *sa malalaswang eksena nila ni* Piolo Pascual: *"Ako ang laging tinatablan."*
- Regine, *naaadik humalik kay* Piolo.
- Acting *ni* Regine *sa* movie *nila ni* Piolo, *pang*-award.
- Doing love scenes, *di taliwas sa* religious beliefs *niya*, says Piolo.
- Piolo, *sa* 2012 *ikakasal*. (Ay!)
- Diana Zubiri, *hahasain ni Robin*. (*Sa* acting.)

JUDY ANN SANTOS

REGINE VELASQUEZ

- *Bakit mas madatung si* Toni (Gonzaga) *kaysa kay* Angel (Locsin)?
- Someone trying to destroy Angel?
- *Pera* ni Franzen (Fajardo), *nilimas ng dyowa bago lumayas*.
- A certain sadness in Franzen's eyes. (*Lungkot 'yon, e.*)
- Sex video ni Dennis (Trillo) *dinuktor*.
- Dennis, *umalma sa* sex video: *"Hindi ako ito—ang liit naman!"*
- James Yap, *di namataan sa paglabas ng mag-ina sa ospital*.
- Baby Boy *at hindi* Baby James *ang tawag ni* Kris *sa kasisilang na anak*.
- Baby James, *kakalabas pa lang ng ospital, gagawa na ng komersyal*.
- Why Sarah (Geronimo) couldn't fall in love yet.
- Sarah, *pinilit makatapos ng* high school. (*'Yun naman pala.*)
- Keanna (Reeves) *kukuha ng* voice lessons.
- *Nagkabati*! Ara Mina *at* Jomari Yllana *sa* rally *ni* (Jomari's brother-politician) Anjo.
- PBB housemate, *kabit ni direk*? (*Ano ba 'yan?*)
- Miriam Quiambao: *Na*-late *na nga, nagmaldita pa*?

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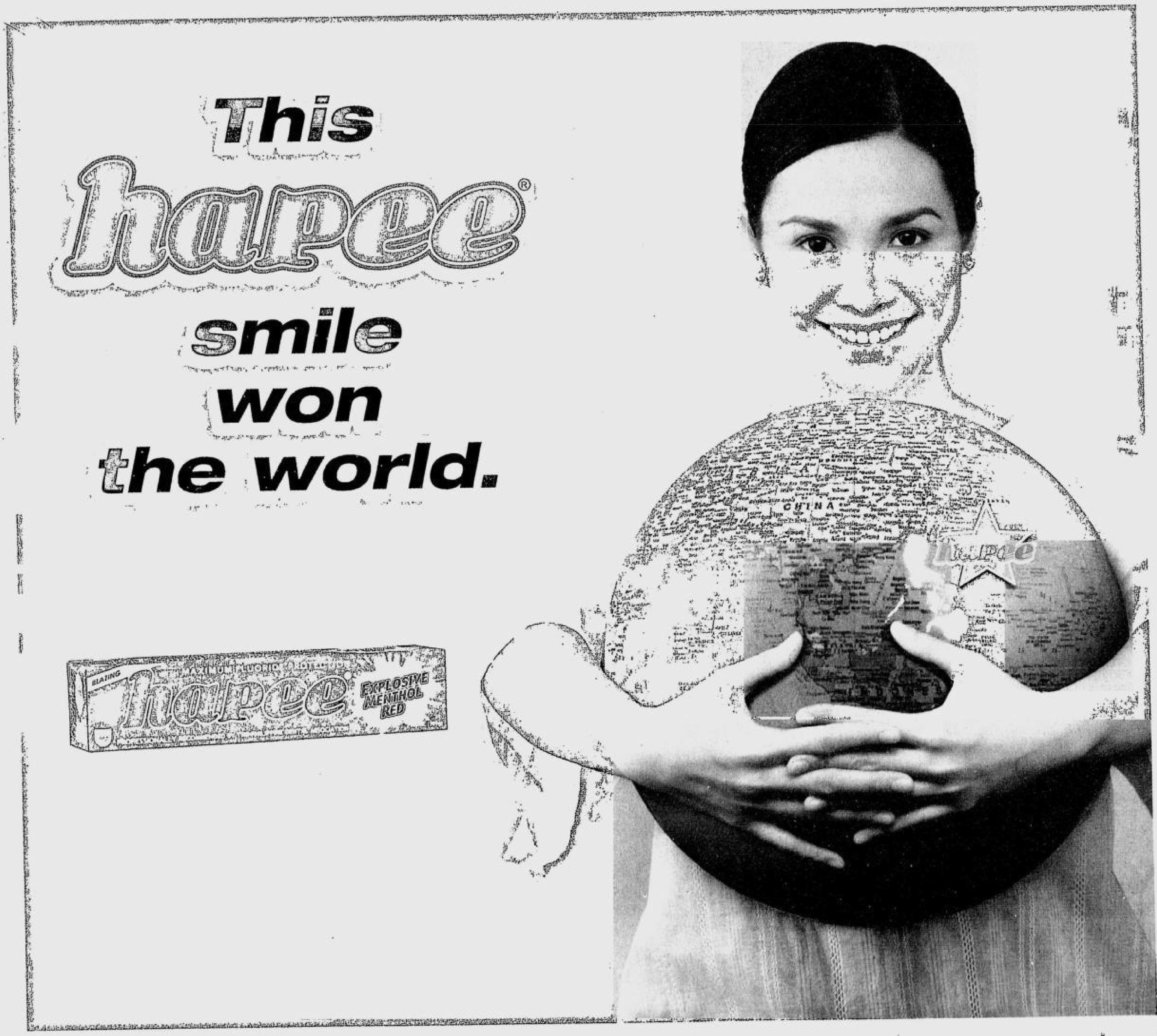

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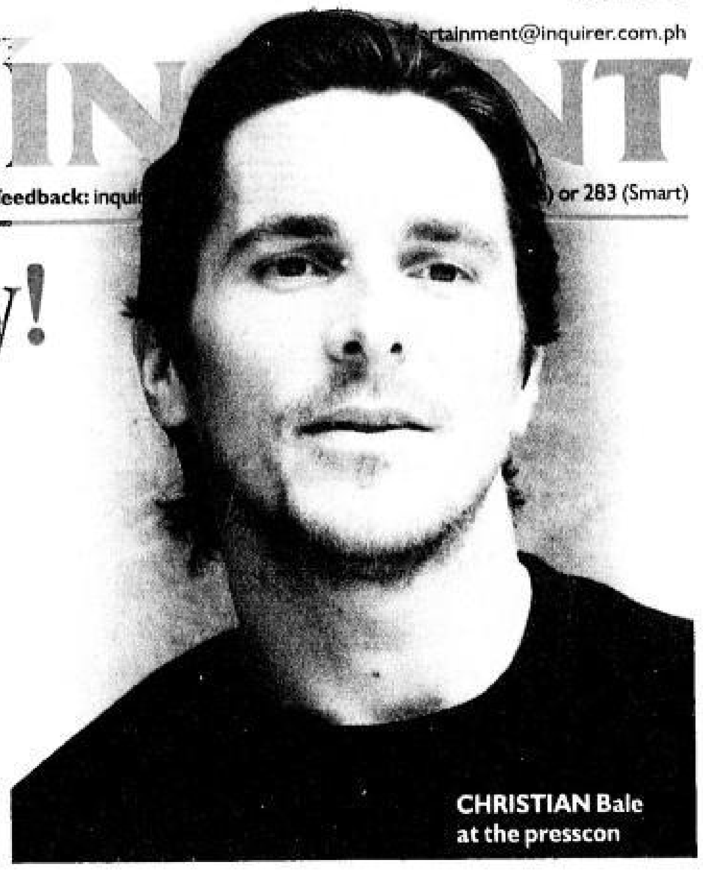
# Watch out, Spidey!

## Christian Bale is back as Caped Crusader



CHRISTIAN Bale at the presscon

**ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD**

*Ruben V. Nepales*

LOS ANGELES—ALBUM LISTENING SESsions can be the loneliest activities one can engage in.

These sessions are staged by record companies for journalists so they will be familiar with artists' new CDs before the interviews.

You sit in a drab hotel room with a view of the driveway's gravel roof with several strangers—writers and the record company publicists or assistants—while listening to a CD. You try to avoid staring at your fellow listeners so, as you slouch on a chair, you contemplate your scruffy shoes, the stained carpet, or the ceiling. Or you stand up and, for the nth time, inspect the gravel roof. Out of boredom and desperation, you begin to see the roof as a Zen rock garden.

### Amazing body

Hot on the heels of **Tobey Maguire**'s box office-shattering return as Spider-Man, **Christian Bale** is putting back his Bat-suit on in "The Dark Knight," sequel to "Batman Begins."

So Christian, who lost an alarming 100 pounds for 2005's "The Machinist," bulked up for his first Batman movie and lost weight again, is buff once more. He wore a short-sleeved black T-shirt that showed off his muscular biceps in a recent press con.

When a journalist prefaced her question with "You have an amazing body of work…," another lady reporter interrupted and said, "You have an amazing body. Period."

Christian—low-key, a bit reserved—couldn't help but smile and say, with a finger pointing at the admiring reporter, "Naughty, naughty. She's getting saucy upfront."

In "The Dark Knight," which he is currently filming for a 2008 target release, Christian has some interesting new cast mates. **Maggie Gyllenhaal** has replaced **Katie Holmes**, aka Mrs. **Tom Cruise**, as Rachel Dawes. **Heath Ledger** has a lot to live up to as The Joker since **Jack Nicholson** went to town with the villain role in 1989's "Batman." Rounding up the cast are **Gary Oldman** (as Lt. James Gordon), **Aaron Eckhart** (Harvey Dent), **Morgan Freeman** (Lucius Fox), **Michael Caine** (Alfred Pennyworth) and **Eric Roberts**.

For now, this was what the entire Wales native wanted to say about his return as the Caped Crusader: "It's the first time that I've reprised a role. And this is the third time that I'm making a movie with **Chris Nolan**. So there's an easier feel for us, of knowing where we're going with the movie. He has written a really brilliant script. We have the full support and backing of everybody involved with the movie because we've been tested. Whereas before, Chris and I were untested. I will otherwise maintain the mystery about the movie in the same way that Chris likes to keep around the project, which I like."

### 'High-minded Rambo'

In the meantime, Christian has a new movie, the action-drama, "Rescue Dawn," directed by acclaimed German director, **Werner Herzog**. He plays a true-to-life character, Dieter Dengler, an American pilot who escaped from a Laotian prison camp during the Vietnam War, only to face the challenges of surviving the jungle.

Since this is directed by Werner, the film, shot in Thailand with **Steve Zahn** and **Jeremy Davies**, is being tagged as a "high-minded Rambo." The project began as a critically praised documentary, "Little Dieter Needs To Fly," about the real Dieter Dengler whom Werner knew.

Christian lost weight again for this movie but downplayed it at the interview. His emaciated look and how much weight he lost in "The Machinist" are still being talked about to this day.

"My weight loss (for this movie) really wasn't as much," explained the 33-year-old who was recently seen in "The Prestige." "I wasn't going to go there again. There were wonderful make-up artists, etcetera. What we did is, and I suggested this to Werner, 'Let's shoot the movie in reverse.' So our very first day was the end of the scene. Then we just went backwards.

"So our last day of shooting was the first scene in the movie. There were a couple of years between 'The Machinist' and 'Rescue Dawn.' I did lose weight, yes. But I feel that it's not a particularly important point. It's something that's good for showing a passage of time or an indication of the kind of suffering that they were going through. There's so much more that's interesting in the movie. I learned my lesson from 'The Machinist' so I prefer not to talk about the physical transformation because it becomes the focus."

### Perfect match

We asked him about his experience filming in the wilds of Thailand with a director as colorful as Werner. Among the anecdotes about the filmmaker behind the film, "Fitzcarraldo": He walked from Munich to Paris to visit a gravely ill friend; cooked in and ate from a shoe to keep a bet.

"It's a match made in heaven," Christian

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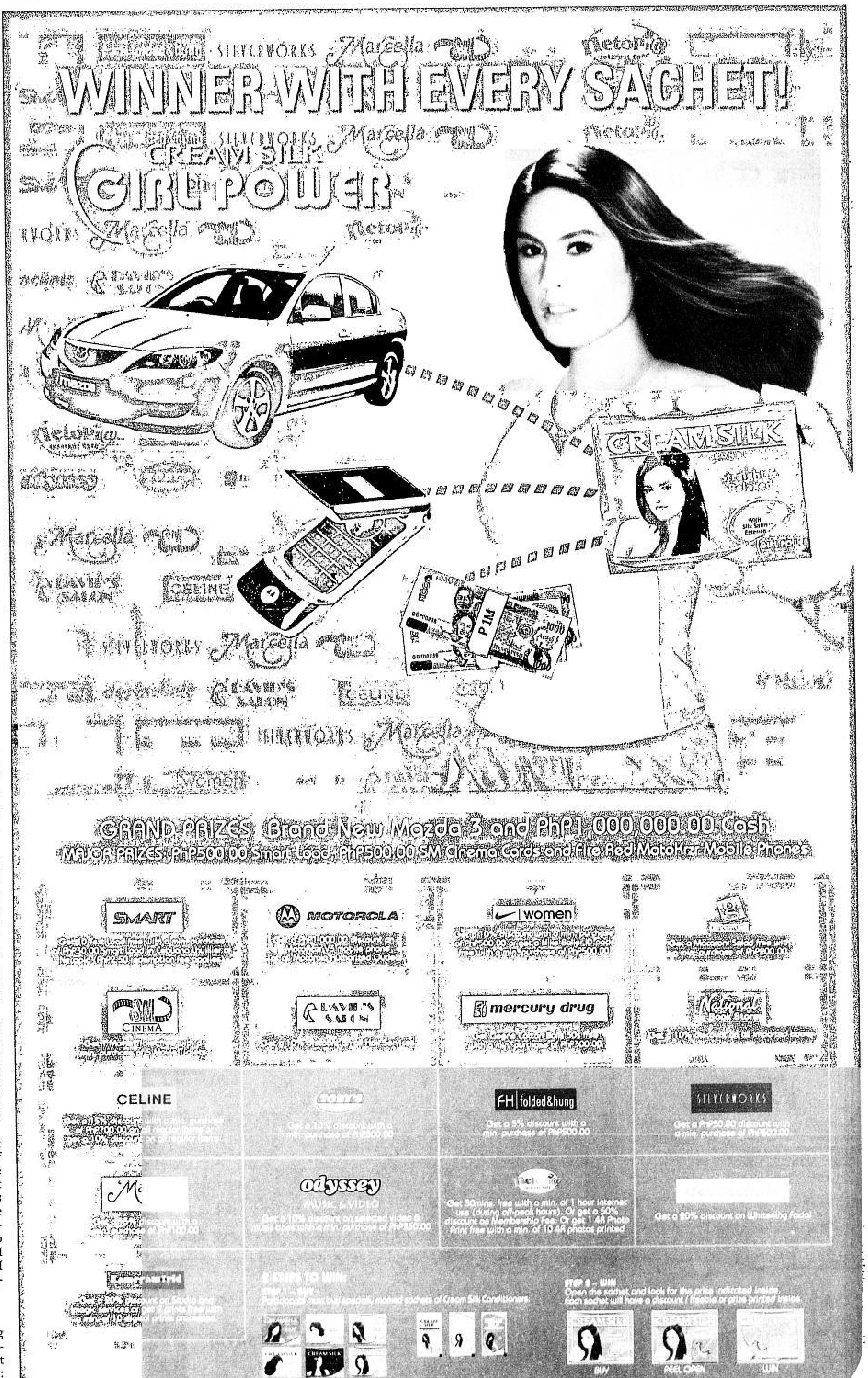

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# Watch out, Spidey! Christian Bale is back as Ca

answered. "When I first met Werner, the questions out of his mouth in the first five minutes were, 'How did I feel about swimming in snake-infested waters? What did I think of sleeping in the jungle and waking up with leeches all over me? What did I think about biting the head off a snake?' Various questions like those came from him. I never had to bite the head off a snake. There was never the intention of doing that but it was very much of Werner to probe. He wanted somebody to have a challenge as well."

He added, "Werner is, by turns, a very warm and gentle person and then somebody who can be so focused and intense that his whole body is literally shaking. He likes to get his hands very dirty. He would often be almost right within the shot, getting trampled by extras who are literally walking all over him as is trying to direct from underneath (the cameras). He lost pretty much all of his toenails while we were filming. All these things Steve and I went through as well.

"The point was, Werner has no desire to be comfortable. There was no chair where he was reclining and he was being like a general, directing from the back lines. He's on the front lines at all times. There wasn't a day when he left the set without a cut, wound or bruise. That's what making a movie with him is like. It's real construction or like climbing a mountain. I like that very much."

It's the first tin
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But not everyone shar
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### Better grip

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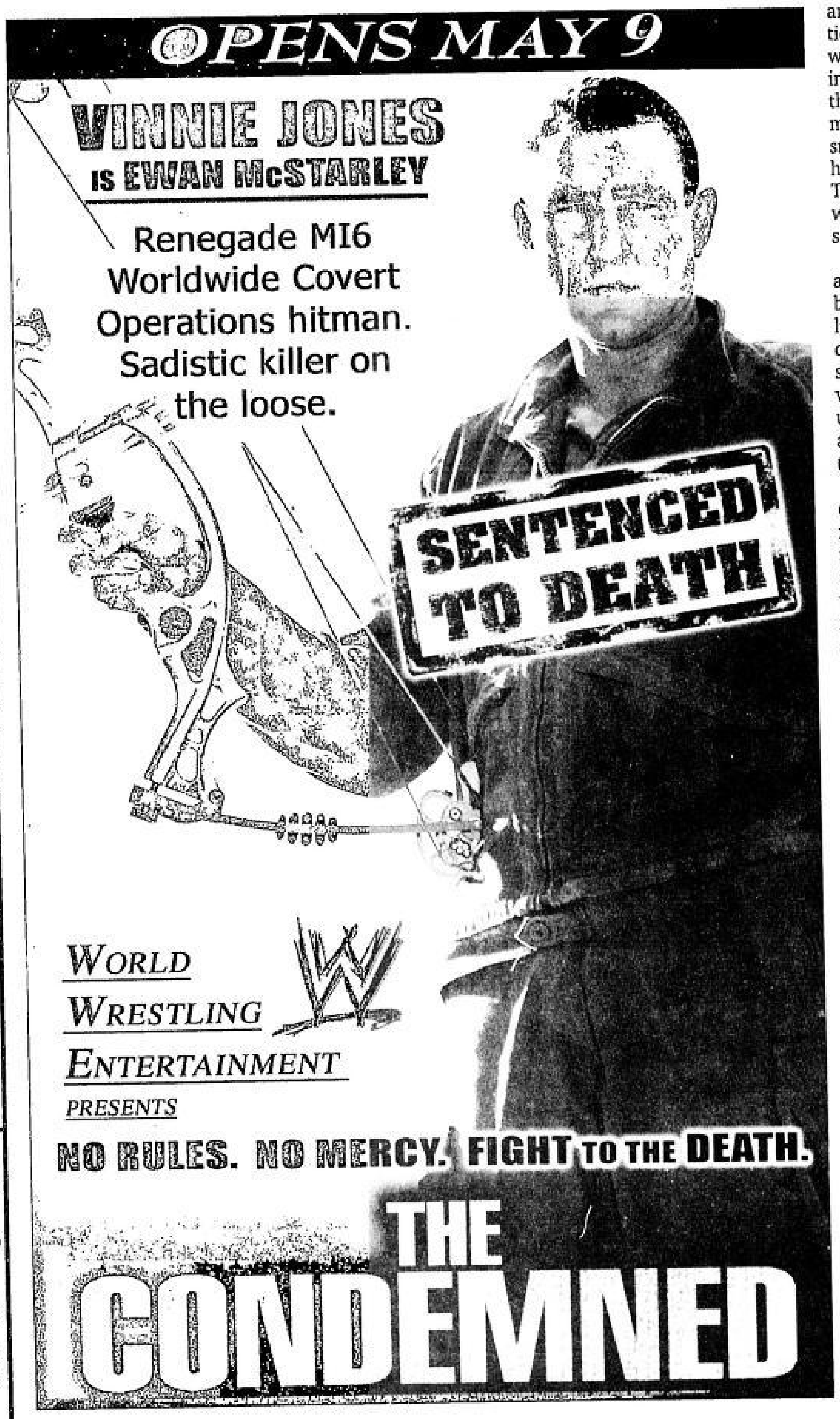
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Friday, May 04 : Midnight screening at 11:30 PM
Saturday, May 05 : Early screening at 10:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Sunday, May 06 : Early screening at 10:00 AM
Buy your tickets now! Call 633-2227 for more details
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EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851, loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227 for more details.
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CINEMA 1 SPIDERMAN 3 10:30, 1:20, 4:10 7:00, 9:50 GP
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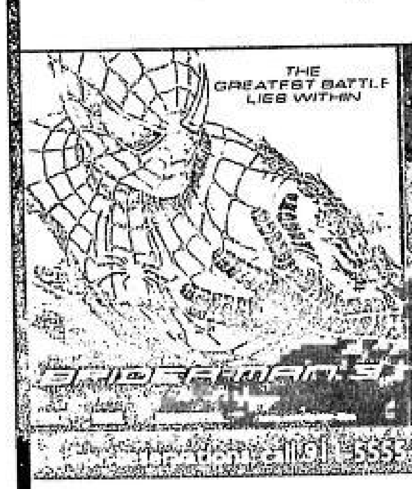
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 SPIDERMAN 3 10:20, 1:05, 3:55 6:45, 9:35 GP
CINEMA 4 SPIDERMAN 3 11:35, 2:25, 5:15 8:05, 10:50 GP
CINEMA 5 SPIDERMAN 3 10:50, 1:45, 4:35 7:25, 10:15 GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
May 11 & 12, 2007 Rock the Vote "The Repeat" 8:00 PM
May 18, 2007 CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA 8:00 PM
May 19 & 26, 2007 OGIE ALCASID & SITTI 8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY DANCE NIGHT 7:00 PM
JUNE 15, 2007 Champion of the World (Jed Madela) 8:30 PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net
Gateway ALIMALL FarmersPlaza


THE GREATEST BATTLE LIES WITHIN
SPIDER-MAN 3

BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE
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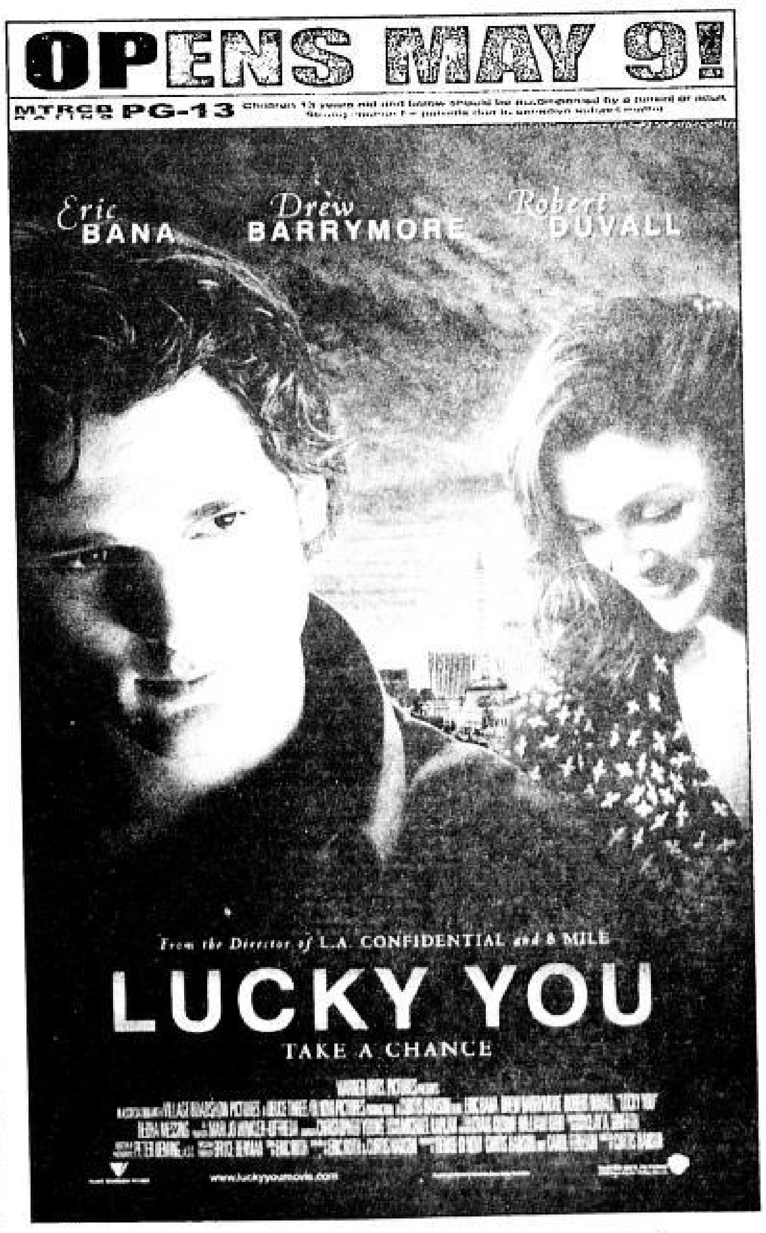
SPIDERMAN 3
10:15 / 10:30 / 11:05 / 11:25 / 11:40 / 12:00 / 12:35 / 12:50 / 1:10 / 1:25
1:45 / 2:00 / 2:20 / 2:35 / 2:55 / 3:30 / 3:45 / 4:05 / 4:20 / 4:40
4:55 / 5:15 / 5:30 / 5:50 / 6:25 / 6:40 / 7:00 / 7:15 / 7:35 / 7:50
8:10 / 8:25 / 8:45 / 9:20 / 9:35 / 9:55 / 10:10 / 10:30 / 10:45
Gateway PLATINUM CINEMA
SPIDERMAN 3
12:15 / 3:10 / 6:05 / 9:00
ALIMALL 5
1 SPIDERMAN 3 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
2 SPIDERMAN 3 1:05 / 3:35 / 6:05 / 8:35
3 SPIDERMAN 3 11:10 / 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
4 ANG CUTE NG INA MO 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
5 SHOOTER 12:35 / 3:10 / 5:45 / 8:20
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
ALIMALL plays host to the
The 1st Celebrity Salin-Gamit Festival
In celebration of the Film Academy of the Philippines' 25th Anniversary Celebration
Ongoing until May 19 Level 3 / Ali Mall
Festival Highlights: Art Gallery, Celebrity Fans' Day, Film & Documentary Showing and many more!


OPENS MAY 9!
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Eric BANA Drew BARRYMORE Robert DUVALL
From the Director of L.A. CONFIDENTIAL and 8 MILE
LUCKY YOU
TAKE A CHANCE
www.luckyyoumovie.com

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# ped Crusader

## he he's e; his third ris Nolan

From page H1

d Christian's taste for n whose first starring pectacular—in **Steven** e Sun,"—revealed, "In cumstances, half of the st walked away."

ear-old daughter and a freelance producer, dcuffed to Steve Zahn he jungle: "You've got unt of kinkiness if you ndy, wouldn't you?"

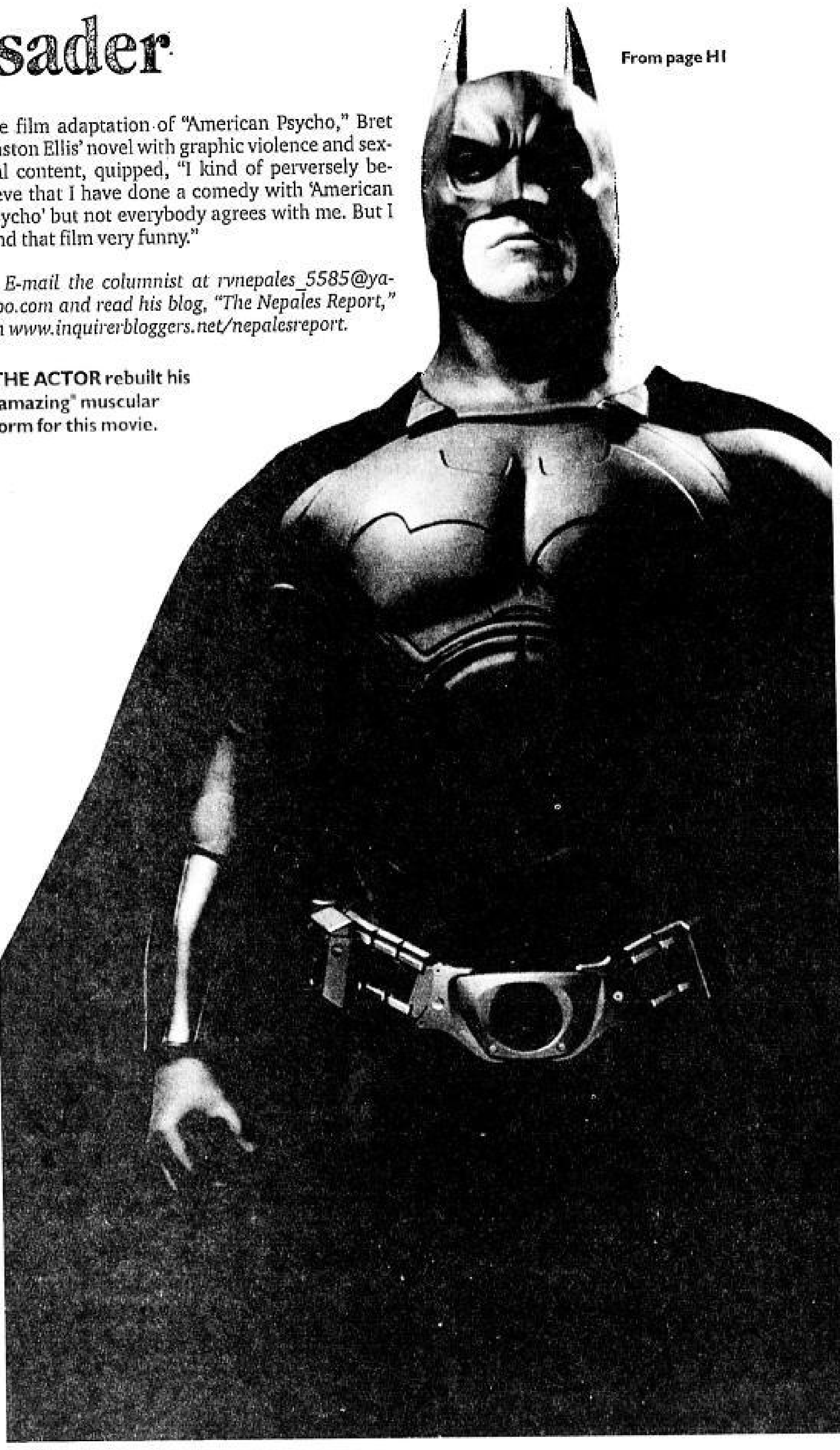
Thailand and being dn't speak English. "To sations where nobody n be fantastic," Christ get along with people n't actually understand at they're saying. It of- ruins it when you do lerstand."

Christian also enjoyed cking his shoes in iland. "I walked und barefoot most of time I was there," he d. "They were always ng to get me to put on dals. But you know, e you get these thick luses on the bottom of r feet, you can walk r stones without pain. have a better grip,"

Asked about his fa- us stepma, **Gloria** **inem** (the feminist t his father, David e, married in 2000), replied, "She gives lec- es and writes ks—she's still very ch involved." David d in 2003.

When asked if he'll ev- lo a comedy, the star of the film adaptation of "American Psycho," Bret Easton Ellis' novel with graphic violence and sexual content, quipped, "I kind of perversely believe that I have done a comedy with 'American Psycho' but not everybody agrees with me. But I find that film very funny."

*E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.*



**THE ACTOR** rebuilt his "amazing" muscular form for this movie.

OPENS MAY 16
AMERICA's MOST TALKED-ABOUT MOVIE!
HOW DO YOU CONVICT A MAN WHO HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVEN INNOCENT?
ANTHONY HOPKINS RYAN GOSLING
I SHOT MY WIFE... PROVE IT.
FRACTURE
NEW LINE CINEMA

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 3 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 4 SPIDER-MAN 3 |
| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 3 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 SHOOTER | 5 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 6 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 7 SPIDER-MAN 3 |
| GB1 | 1 FIREHOUSE DOG | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | | |
| GB3 | 1 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | | |
| | 3 SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| ATC | 1 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | | |
| | 3 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 4 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 5 SPIDER-MAN 3 | |
| ACC | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 3 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 4 SPIDER-MAN 3 |
| M2 | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | | |
| | 3 CUTE ANG INA MO | 4 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 5 SPIDER-MAN 3 | |

## At the Activity Center

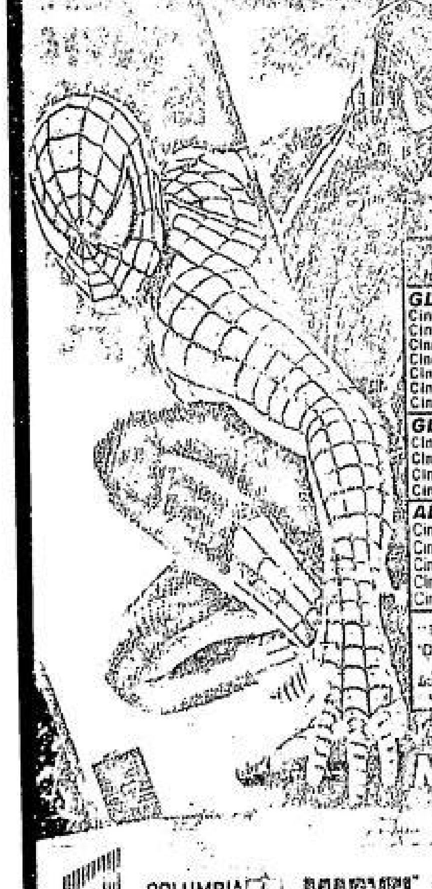
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

| GLORIETTA | ALABANG TOWN CENTER |
|---|---|
| Toby's Sports Event<br>April 27 to 29, 2007 | Huggies Interactive<br>May 5 to 6, 2007 |
| AYALA CENTER CEBU | MARKET! MARKET! |
| Bazaar at level 1 (near Activity Center)<br>April 1 to 30, 2007 | The Maestro Series by Ryan Cayabyab<br>April 30, 2007 |

GREENBELT
Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peek presents A Collection of Myth
feat. Randy Ortiz, Ivarluski Asescon, Jojie Loren & Joey Samson
April 25 to May 6, 2007

Greenbelt Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents GLORIOUS
at REP's Globe Theater - April 13 to 29, 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
CHINESE DIASPORA: Art Streams from the Mainland (six shows)
Ongoing until May 27, 2007
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org



Ayala CINEMAS
THE GREATEST BATTLE LIES WITHIN
SPIDER-MAN 3
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

| GLORIETTA 4 | GREENBELT 3 |
|---|---|
| Cinema 1* - 9:00am, 12:00nn, 3:00pm, 6:00, 9:00<br>Cinema 2* - 9:30 am, 12:30 pm, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30<br>Cinema 3** - 11:30am, 2:30pm, 5:30, 8:30<br>Cinema 4 - 12:30 pm, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30<br>Cinema 5 - 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00, 8:00<br>Cinema 6 - 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00<br>Cinema 7 - 1:30 pm, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 | Cinema 1** - 11:30 am, 2:20 pm, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50<br>Cinema 2** - 9:15 am, 12:05 pm, 2:55, 5:45, 8:35, 11:25<br>Cinema 3* - 9:50 am, 12:40 pm, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00<br>Cinema 4* - 10:30 am, 1:20 pm, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50, 12:30<br>Cinema 5* - 11:00 am, 1:50pm, 4:40, 7:40, 10:20 |
| GLORIETTA 1 | GREENBELT 1 |
| Cinema 1 - 9:00 am, 12:00nn, 3:00pm, 6:00, 9:00<br>Cinema 2 - 8:30 am, 11:30, 2:30pm, 5:30, 8:30<br>Cinema 3 - 9:30 am, 12:30pm, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30<br>Cinema 4 - 10:00 am, 1:00pm, 4:00, 7:00 | OnStage - 5:00 pm<br>Cinema 1 - 12:45 pm, 3:45, 6:45, 9:30<br>Cinema 2 - 11:45 am, 2:45 pm, 5:45, 8:45 |
| ALABANG TOWN CENTER | MARKET! MARKET! |
| Cinema 1** - 11:50am, 2:40pm, 5:30, 8:20, 11:10<br>Cinema 2 - 11:20am, 2:10pm, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40<br>Cinema 3 - 10:55am, 1:45pm, 4:35, 7:25, 10:15<br>Cinema 4 - 10:25 am, 1:15pm, 4:05, 6:55, 9:45<br>Cinema 5 - 11:25 am, 2:15 pm, 5:05, 7:55, 10:45 | Cinema 1* - 12:00nn, 3:00pm, 6:00, 9:00<br>Cinema 2 - 1:00 pm, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00<br>Cinema 3 - 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00, 8:00<br>Cinema 4 - 11:30am, 2:30pm, 5:30, 8:30<br>Cinema 5 - 9:30 am, 12:30pm, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30<br>Cinema 7 - 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, 4:30, 7:30 |
| **THX & Guaranteed Seat Cinema<br>*Digital Sound & Guaranteed Seat Cinema<br>Screening schedules are subject to change without prior notice | AYALA CENTER CEBU<br>Cinema 1 - 1:30pm, 4:00, 6:50, 10:00<br>Cinema 2 - 1:00pm, 3:30, 6:20, 9:30<br>Cinema 3 - 12:30pm, 3:00, 5:50, 9:00 |

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Strawberry Shortcake and Friends
The Big Berry Bake Off
at the Ayala Malls
Strawberry Shortcake

Glorietta
Activity Center
May 3, 6pm
May 4, 3pm & 6pm
May 5 & 6, 11:30am , 3pm & 6pm

Market! Market!
Activity Center
May 11-13
11am , 3pm & 6pm

Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
May 18-20
11am , 3pm & 6pm

TriNoma
Activity Center
May 25-27
11am , 3pm & 6pm

Ayala Center Cebu
Activity Center
June 1-3
1pm , 4pm & 6:30pm

glorietta TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU TriNoma
www.ayalamalls.com.ph

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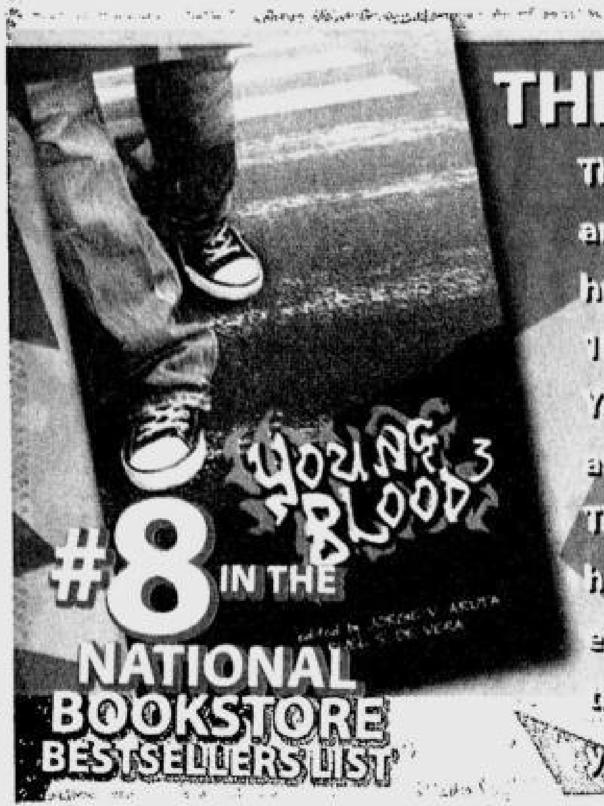
# 'Rock' repeats

JON LAPUS AS CORY AQUINO AND Tessie Tomas as Imelda Marcos, right, are among the headliners of the political spoof "Rock Da Vote: Night at the Museum," which will have its last weekend repeat on May 11 and 12.

On its 15th year, "Rock Da Vote" also stars Jon Santos, Candy Pangilinan and Pooh. Together, they present a comic sketch of Philippine politics during election year.

Celebrities and politicians formed part of the crowd who watched the performances in the past three weekends.

Tickets are available at Music Museum and all TicketWorld outlets. Call 891-9999.



THE BLOOD IS BACK.

The long wait is over as the hottest local anthology returns. Youngblood³ is in the house, loaded with the best essays from 1999 to 2004 in the most concentrated Youngblood package yet. Bear witness as a generation continues its evolution. This is the Filipino youth at their most honest and most eloquent. Here are the essays that matter from the newspaper that started it all. Youngblood³ is the young Filipino—unplugged.

**Featuring essays by:**
Jules Alcantara / Rain Reyes / Jose Leo Lemuel G. Caparas Jr. / Cinnamon Marcelo / Rodney L. Barayuga / Rio Cobcobo / Prairie Dawn / Ron Darvin / Agnes Fidelis C. Gloria-Pinzon / Elaine P. Lim / Purple / Ann Aberin / Squire / Alex Avila / Fitz Gerard Villafuerte / Windi Remmi Mondiguing Tapawan / Pearlsha Abubakar / Blagko / Lou Albano / Angelo Hernandez / Claudette M. Llarena / Connie Gundayao / Maria del Rosario / Karen Mae V. Gican / B / Jerick T. Aguilar / Malou I. Redome / Jen Esguerra / Erin Batac / Ella Reyes / Eder S. Mutuc, M.D. / Donalyne Rasalan Lampa / Carlos Alfonso Q. Santos / Christela Cabreros / Adelfo Cyrus Alanis / Aleja F. Martinez / Zvach / Matthias / Raiza Katrina Abubakar / Jessica Brillantes / Gabriella S. Martelino / Sherie S. Sta. Cruz / Janie S. Cambri / Jonas Soltes / Jael Wenceslao / Paolo L. Azurin / Diana Emiano / Kay Stephanie Veloso / TJ / Dawn Isobel Yu Aquino / Roel A. Andag / Paolo David / Florianne Jimenez

YOUNGBLOOD³

*Edited by Jorge V. Aruta and Ruel S. De Vera*

P395 bookpaper
P150 newsprint

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DARI CREME and Junior INQUIRER present

Moms n' Kids FAIR

FEATURING THE GRANDEST BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

May 18-20, 2007
Megatrade Halls 2 & 3
5th level Bldg. B
MEGAMALL

MAY 18

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:00 am - 12:00 nn | Opening Ceremonies with Mascot & Costume Parade |
| 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm | Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia |
| 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | QTV's Ka-Toque cooking Demo |
| 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Fashion Show by [illegible] |
| 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm | QTV's Ka-Toque cooking Demo |
| 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm | Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia |
| 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm | Junior Inquirer Essay Writing Contest/ Quiz Bee, |
| 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm | QTV's Ka-Toque cooking Demo |

MAY 19

| | |
|---|---|
| 12:00 nn - 12:30 pm | Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia |
| 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm | Kino Kids Art |
| 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Arts and Crafts Workshop |
| 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Junior Inquirer Essay Writing Contest/ Quiz Bee |
| 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia |
| 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Kino Kids Art |
| 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm | Swimming for Beginners by WS Sports |
| 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Do-it-Yourself Segment by Sweet Life hosted by Wilma Doesnt and Lucy Torres |

MAY 20

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:00 am - 11:00 am | E-Ay Dance Craze / Dress-Up Your Pancake Contest by Magnolia Pancake Plus |
| 11:00 am - 11:30 am | Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia |
| 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Alaska Power Camp |
| 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm | Magnolia's My Moms Best Pambaon Recipe |
| 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Moms Segment by Marilyn Reynes and Lani Mercado |
| 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm | Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia |

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PAYLESS INSTANT MAMI
MAS PINA-CHICKEN
MAS PINA-BEEF

Woodsville
VIVERDE
mansions
Merville, Parañaque

# The perfect city home set in nature

## *Woodsville Viverde Mansions*

A perfect home is a place that makes you feel relaxed, happy and at peace. It's a lovely place that allows you a breath of fresh air and wonderful walks in sunkissed flower gardens under a canopy of trees and lush greenery. Yes, a home where you can bask and play in nature setting and make you escape the hustle and bustle of city life.

To look for and enjoy a perfect home set in nature, you need not go far into the rural heartland. Right here in Metro Manila, such place is perfectly ensconced in Merville, Parañaque—at Woodsville Viverde Mansions.

Woodsville Viverde Mansions is the newest nature-inspired residential development by Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC), one of the country's leading property developers. RLC has been known as an innovator in the creation of properties and communities that reflect modern living, lifestyles, and trends. A trendsetter and pioneer in mix-use development, RLC has established landmarks in the country such as malls, office buildings and dozens of residential condominiums and housing subdivisions.

Sitting on a 3-hectare portion of a 9-hectare property, with 70-percent open space dotted by trees and greenery, Woodsville Viverde Mansions is a master planned residential community with 13 mid-rise condominiums distributed in seven inviting nature enclaves— The Oasis, The Fun Park, The Fitness Cove, Nirvana Cove, Poet's Nook, Nature's Orchestra and Picnic Grove.

A gated community beside Merville and situated between Bicutan and Nichols Interchanges, Woodsville Viverde Mansions is a secure, tranquil and safe community only 10 minutes away from surrounding financial districts such as Makati and Fort Bonifacio. It's also very near shopping malls—SM in Bicutan and Sucat, Market Market, Alabang Town Center, and Festival Mall. Prominent schools such as Woodrose, San Beda Alabang, Don Bosco Makati, Colegio de San Agustin and hundreds of schools in Parañaque and Alabang.

Living at Woodsville Viverde Mansions gives the privilege of enjoying country club-like amenities and facilities. Families can enjoy the ample parks and gardens. Fitness enthusiasts and kids can test their physical strength in the jogging paths, courts for sports activities, and pools. Parents can use the lounge areas for club meetings, birthday parties and anniversary celebrations.

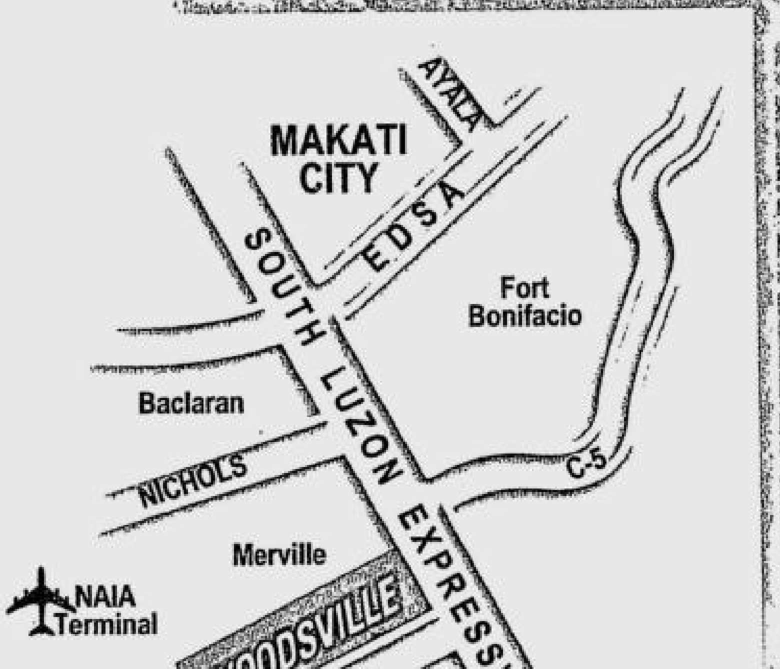
Then there's the Village Mall, an arcade where a cluster of shops are located to serve the home needs of families, such as a supermarket, hair salon and various service shops.

Condominium units at Woodsville Viverde Mansions are affordable and can be purchased through attractive payment schemes. Prices of units range from P1M, for the studio type, to P2.1M and P2.8M for two bedroom and three bedroom units respectively. Spacious and possessing window views of landscaped surroundings, the units are fully finished and efficiently laid out.

As to water supply, no need to worry as there are overhead water tank and underground cistern for each building. For each building too, there is stand-by power generator for common areas as well as two elevators to service the residents.

Families, couples, and even singles contemplating on living at Woodsville Viverde Mansions do not have to go through a long wait of four to five years construction period, as the units will be ready for turnover starting December 2007. RLC has a good track record of completing projects on time and on committed specifications.

A community inspired by nature, Woodsville Viverde Mansions resonates the sound of secure, happy and peaceful living in the suburbs of Parañaque.



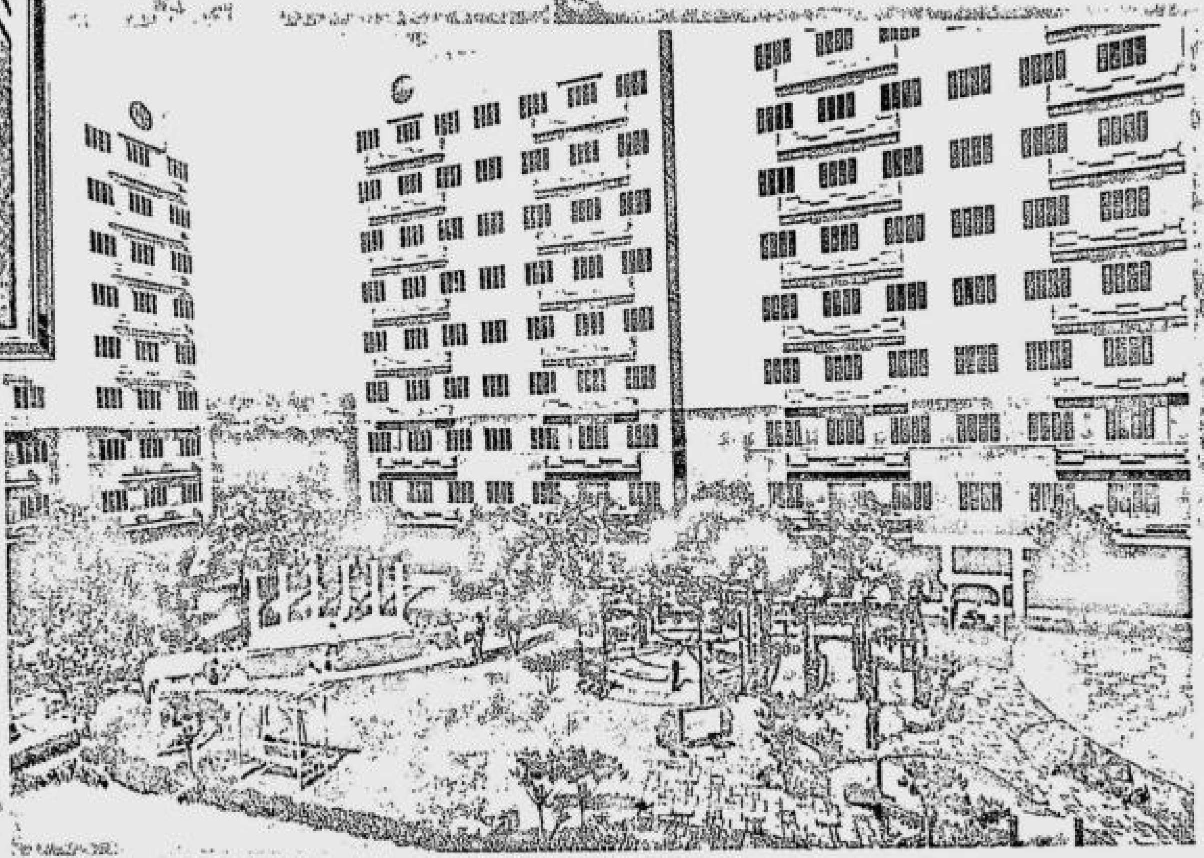
*A gated community beside Merville and situated between Bicutan and Nichols Interchanges, Woodsville Viverde Mansions is a secure, tranquil and safe community 10 minutes away from surrounding financial districts such as Makati and Fort Bonifacio*

Woodsville
Robinsons Supermarket
Denny's

# All that green plus amen

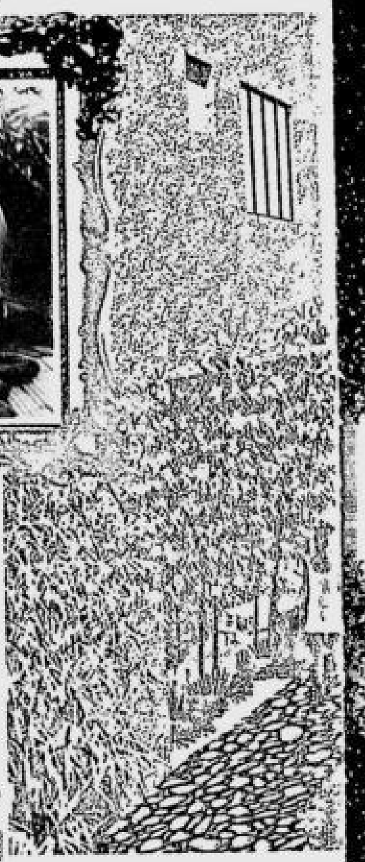
At Woodsville Viverde Mansions, there's something to suit everyone. It features **seven** nature-themed landscaped gardens equipped with various amenities where residents can be recharged and healed of everyday stress

LIFESTYLE, COMF
stress-free environm
spired spaces to roa
core of Woodsville
With Woodsville
Robinsons Land Corp
tra mile in providing
condominium living,



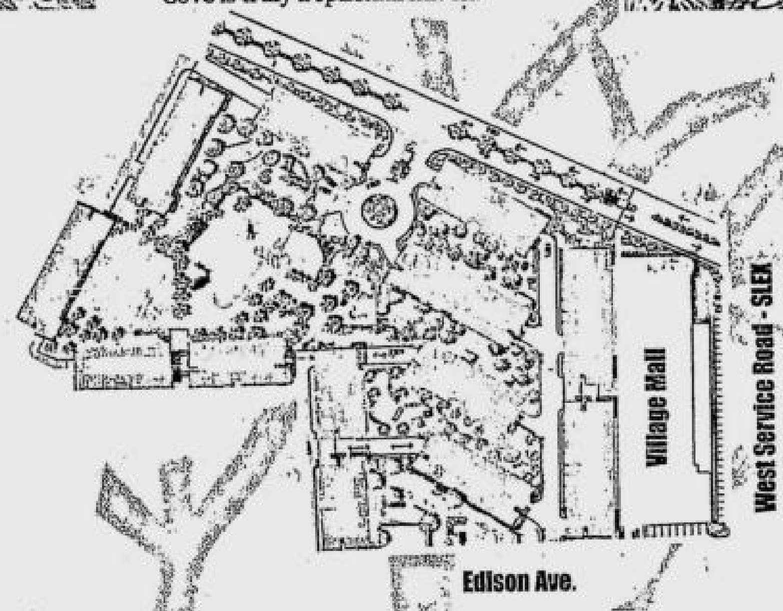
**Nature's Orchestra**

Vine-covered Arbors and a Pergola by its entry provide the perfect setting for Nature's Orchestra, which features a Mini Amphitheater surrounded by wide branched trees. Ideal for nature lovers and artists, Nature's Orchestra brings to mind Greek theaters of lore where muses dance and sing. This is a great place for children and teenagers alike who would want to stage plays and mini concerts of their own.



**Nirvana Cove**

Contemplate the future, hear nature's heavenly music, and even do taichi at the Nirvana Cove. Exuding an Oriental feel and Zen-like ambiance, Nirvana Cove flourishes with bamboo trees and shrubs that serve as visual and sound buffers for the area. Highlights include the Stone Bubbler, Rock Garden, and Health Walk. If you want to take away the stress and just meditate away worries, Nirvana Cove is truly a spiritual haven.



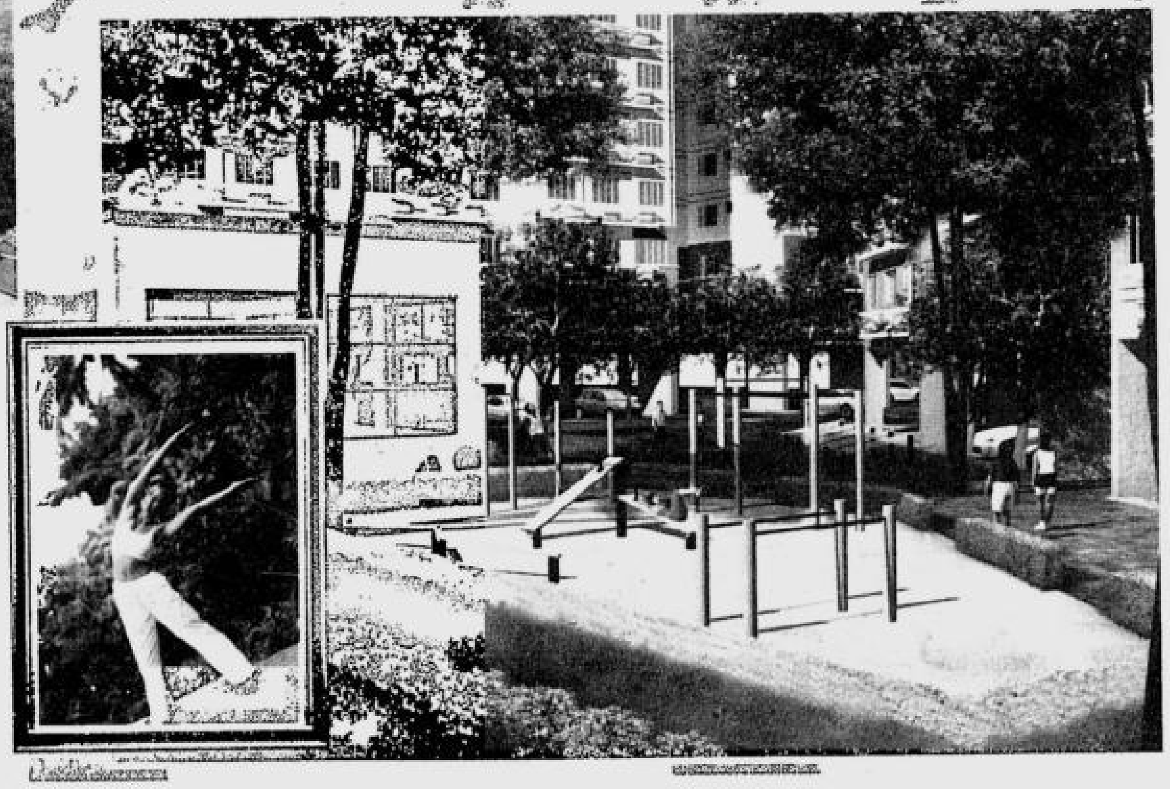
Wood

Str
Viver
that
hair
here

**The Oasis**

Find refuge, serenity, and cool down your nerves at the wonderful waters of The Oasis, the wonderful green spot with a big wide pool equipped with slides and interactive water jets for children and adults to enjoy freely. The picturesque surrounding consists of palms and lush vegetation and cabanas.

Enjoy social facilities such as the Promenade, Al Fresco Dining, Clubhouse, and Multipurpose Court. Under such Mediterranean-inspired backdrop, the Oasis is the perfect venue for social gatherings, summer parties, baptismal , and birthday parties.



**The Fitness Cove**

For those who are into the active lifestyle, Woodsville has the Fitness Cove, where a covered badminton court and outdoor fitness center can be used. The Fitness Cove, with its ample space, is ideal for group exercises that can be conducted in the morning. Senior residents as well as Moms and Dads who wish to remain fit can truly enjoy The Fitness Cove.

**The Fu**

Chil
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# ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION

## Developing properties with a balance of

THERE'S ONE COMPANY THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU speak of urban development that is anchored on the demands of modern living and lifestyle with a gamut of extras and amenities to balance modernity with taste, art and overall interior and landscape appreciation.

Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC) is one of the country's leading property developers and is known as an innovator in the creation of properties and communities that reflect modern living, lifestyles, and trends.

A trendsetter and pioneer in mixed-use developments, RLC has established landmarks in the country. Its long list of accomplishments speaks of RLC's stature as a real estate giant.

RLC is currently the largest landlord of office space, the second largest diversified real estate company in the Philippines and the second largest shopping center operator. It counts itself among the top largest residential condominium developers and hotel owners.

RLC's good reputation isn't only confined to the local market, it has likewise reached major markets abroad. Frederick Go, president and COO of RLC said the company has begun focusing its attention on Filipinos living abroad. RLC's project Woodsville Viverde in Parañaque is all aimed at attracting the overseas Filipinos, aside from targeting local residents who wish to have nature-inspired homes.

"The popularity of the Robinson name, perhaps due to our malls and numerous retail formats, makes quite a difference in the overseas market," said Go. RLC has already embarked on a wide-scale real estate marketing effort abroad, particularly putting up property road shows that move around major cities in the United States and the rest of the world.

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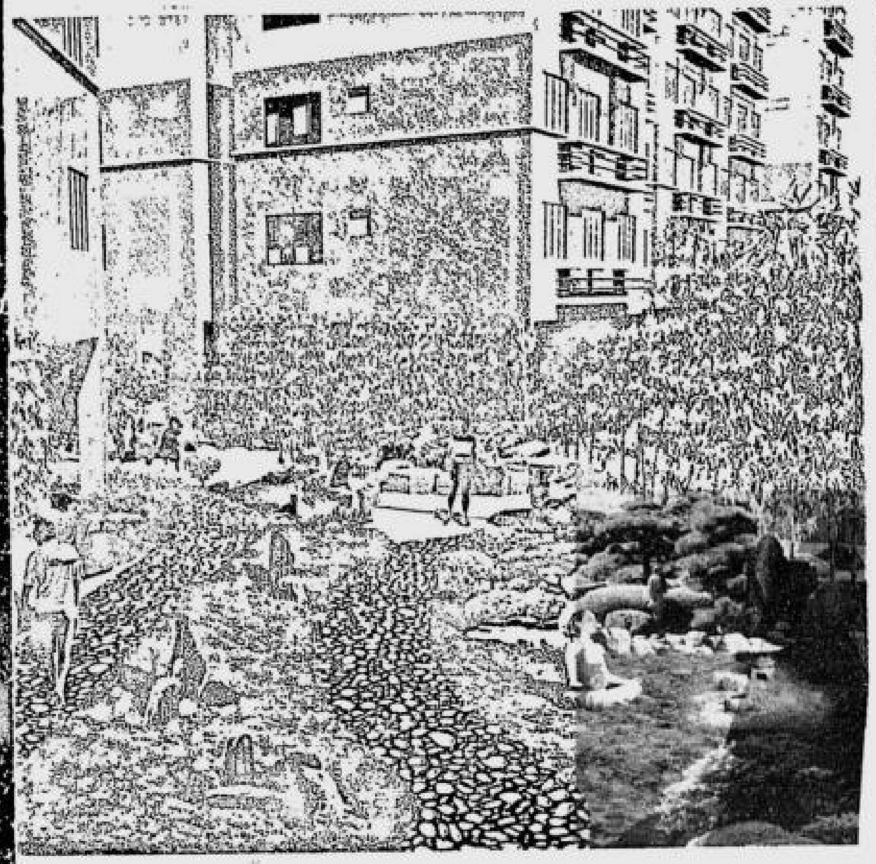
# ities to suit every lifestyle

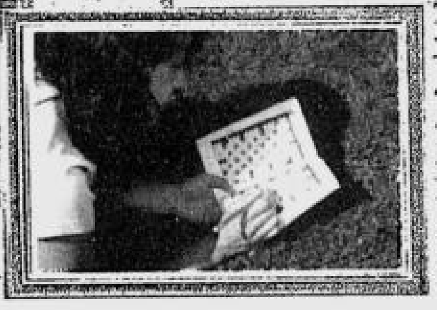
ORTABLE LIVING, ent; and nature in- n around are at the Viverde Mansions. Viverde Mansions, oration went the ex- not just a low density but 70-percent open space nature inspired and functional landscaped gardens where residents can enjoy the amenities and partake of various social activities. Woodsville Viverde Mansions is a sweet place to go home to every day because living here answers the longing and the aspiration for a relaxed, comfortable and happy living.

A multi-cluster mid-rise building community, Woodsville Viverde Mansions located 10 minutes away from Makati offers studio, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom units. The units are affordable and can be purchased through attractive payment schemes.

With all these attractive and functional features, living at Woodsville Viverde Mansions reinforces the idea that a perfect home and stress-free living can be achieved.

**For more information, call Robinsons Land Corporation at 636 0888 and 0922 838 0888 or e-mail properties@robinsonsland.com.**



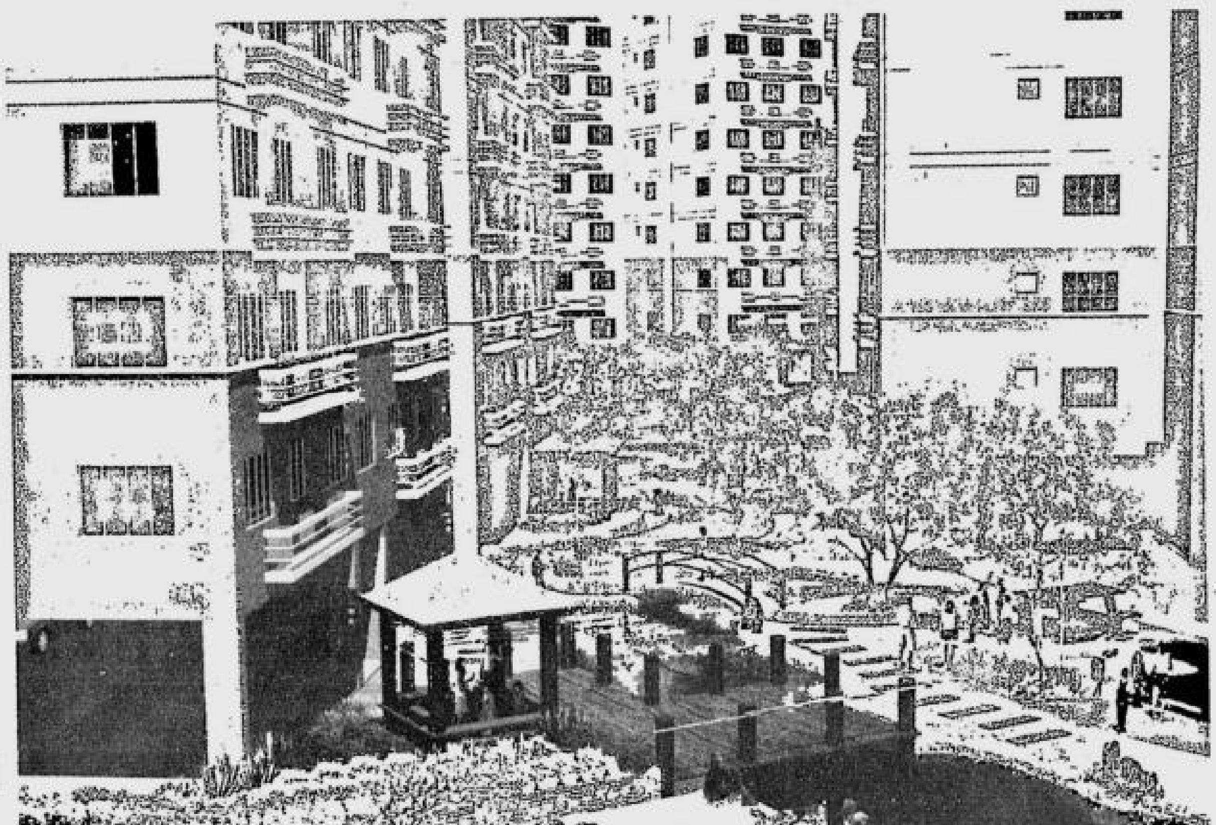


**Poet's Nook**

Be inspired with great ideas at the Poet's Nook, an English garden enlivened by plant topiaries, evergreen trees and landscapes flowing in curving lines, forms and spaces. Enjoy a nice glass of iced tea and catch up on your reading in one of the relaxing Reading Nooks. Poet's Nook is like the secret garden where dreams and imagination flourish.

## sville Viverde Mansions Site Development Plan

ategically located at the frontage of the Woodsville rde Mansions, The Village Mall houses different shops cater to the needs of the residents. A supermarket, salon and various service establishments will be located



**Picnic Grove**

For a family outing, you need not really go far as the Picnic Grove offers the best venue for a family barbecue. Various picnic huts and barbecue grille spots are positioned around a fish pond and a wooden deck bridge. Fruit bearing trees dot this Filipino-themed garden.

**ın Park**

ren can play to their hearts' content and experience fully the joys of physical activities at The Fun Park, green nook where swings, slides, bars and other outdoor play setup are in place. Splash of delightful ow level shrubs, sandboxes, and bicycle tracks complete the play area. Safe and secure, the Fun Park is eat place to stroll, watch the beaming faces of the happy children and socialize with neighbors.

# nodernity and taste

RLC's high-rise buildings division is responsible for residential ondominiums, office building developments and housing pro- cts geared towards the middle to high-end income market.

RLC was incorporated in June 1980 to serve as the real estate rm of JG Summit Holdings Inc., a market leader in a range of in- ustries in the Philippines. Today RLC is a major real estate devel- per with four major core businesses.

Through its commercial centers division, RLC owns and perates one of the largest and most successful chains of alls in the country, which generate 120 million visits annually. RLC boasts of 18 world-class shopping centers, including Robinsons Place Manila and Robinsons Galleria.

RLC's hotels division owns several hospitality facilities. Its fruitful partnership with the Intercontinental Hotels Group resulted in the latter managing the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila and Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila.

The RLC's Housing and Land Development Division is the group that oversees low mid-cost to socialized housing with projects across key cities in the Philippines.

Go's optimism about RLC, its presence in the country and impact to the ordinary Filipino makes him proud of the company's accomplishments.

"I feel privileged to have built landmarks, because they will last beyond my lifetime. I am a business development kind of guy; I like building things, especially from scratch. Before, we had only one shopping mall and one office building. Today we have 18 malls, five office buildings, dozens of residential condominiums and housing subdivisions. It gives me a lot of satisfaction to have accomplished something that you can actually see and touch."

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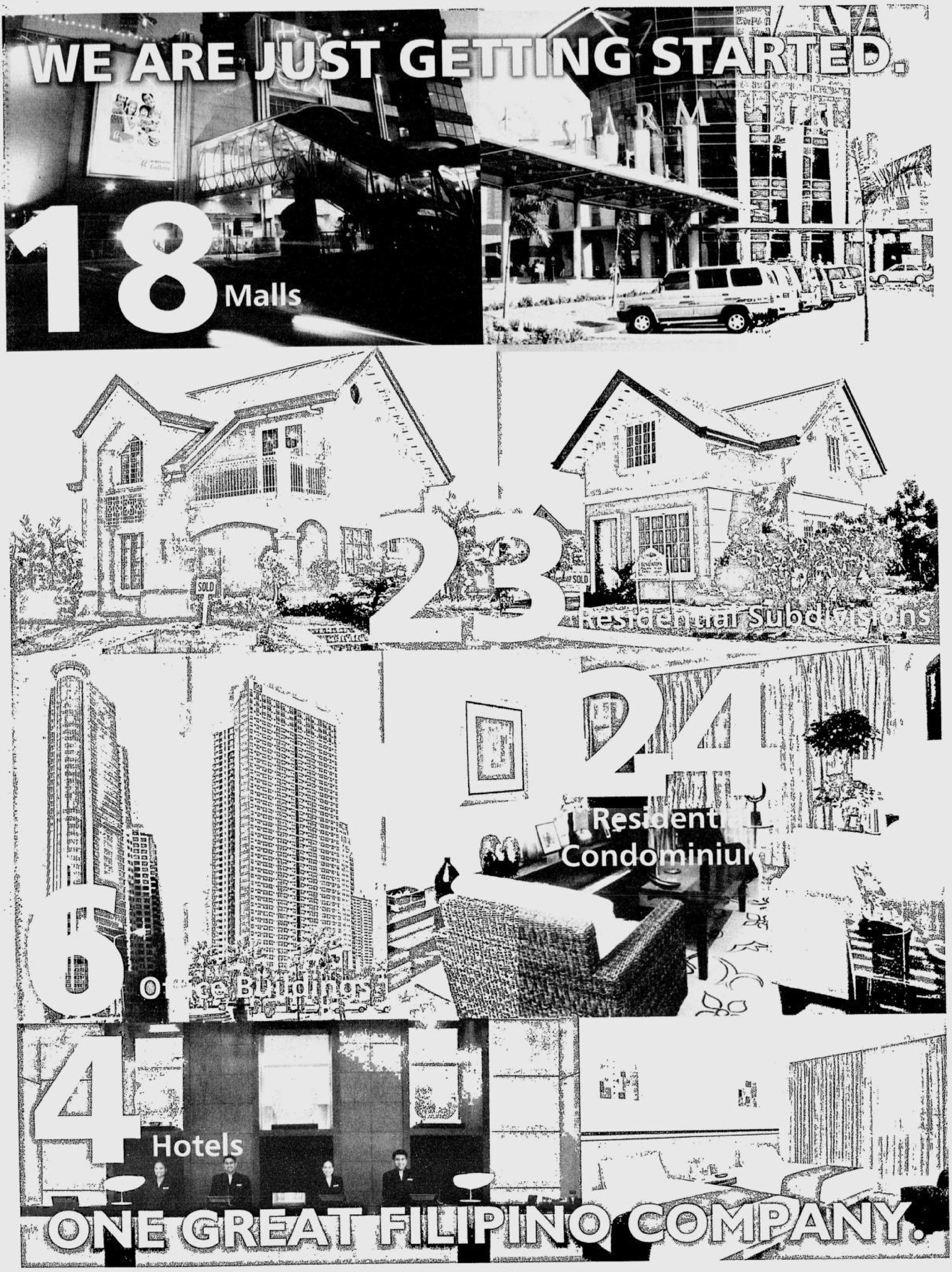
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6 Office Buildings
4 Hotels
ONE GREAT FILIPINO COMPANY.

Robinsons Land Corporation is the second largest diversified real estate conglomerate in the Philippines, building landmark property developments like malls, hotels, community townships, residential condominiums, prime office buildings and affordable homes throughout the country.

We are the pioneer of fully integrated mixed-use development - a unique lifestyle designed to make occupants live, work, shop and play all under one setting.

Feel free to contact us for any of your real estate needs at **(632) 636-0888 / (0922) 838-0888** or email us at **properties@robinsonsland.com**

**ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION**

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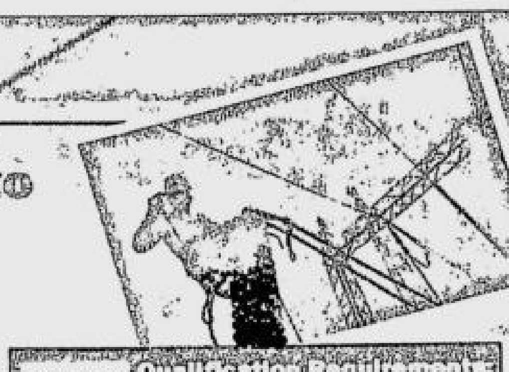
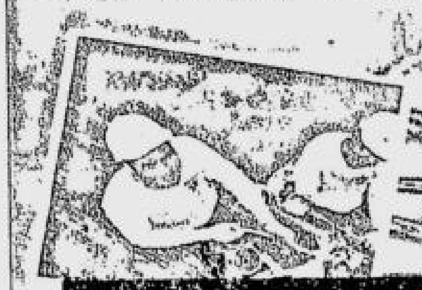
National Transmission Corporation



## Looking for a way to start your professional career?

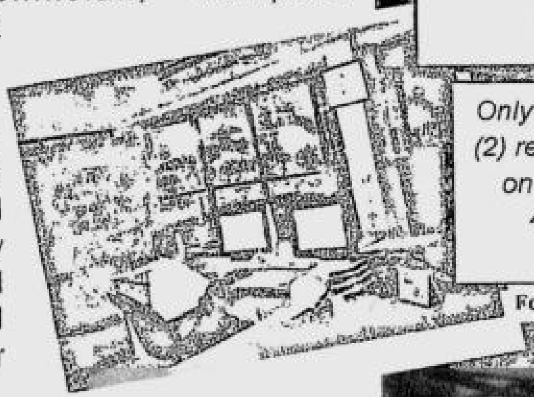


### Integrated Traineeship Program

The **National Transmission Corporation** *(TransCo)* is pleased to invite all interested applicants to the following programs under its **Integrated Traineeship Program** (ITP) for **Year 2007**:

- Cadetship Program
  A six (6) month on-the-job training program intended for graduates of **Electrical** (EE), and **Electronics and Communication Engineering** (ECE) Courses.
- Apprenticeship Program
  A six (6) month-on-the-job training program intended for graduates of **Technical/ Vocational Courses** (i.e. Electrical Technology, Industrial Technology, Electronics Technician, Computer Technician, Aircraft Mechanic, etc.)

The ITP aims to provide new graduates of engineering and technical/vocational courses the opportunity to acquire actual experience in the field of electric power transmission.



### Qualification Requirements

- *Not more than twenty-five (25) years old;*
- *No failing grades in major subjects; (Please bring original Transcript of Records.)*
- *For the Apprenticeship Program—must pass the TransCo Mental Ability, Aptitude and Personality Test (MAAP) Test.*
- *For the Cadetship Program—must pass the TransCo MAAP Test and the Technical Examination* formulated by the TransCo Board of Examiners.*

**Only those who passed the MAAP examination are qualified to take the Technical Examination scheduled on June 16, 2007 for Luzon and Metro Manila and on June 22, 2007 for Visayas and Mindanao.*

**ON-THE-JOB TRAINING STARTS ON JULY 18, 2007.**

*Only applicants who meet the first two (2) requirements may personally apply on* ***May 2 to 18, 2007*** *(1:30 PM to 4:30 PM only) at the following TransCo Offices:*

**For Residents of Metro Manila:**

**Human Resource Training Division**
Human Resource Department
G/F, TransCo Main Building, Power Center,
Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. (02)922-5873 or (02)981-2157

**For Residents of North Luzon**

**HR/Administration Division-Regional Office**
Pennsylvania Avenue, Poro Point
San Fernando City, La Union
Tel Nos. (072)888-0837 or (072)888-0839

**District 1—Ilocos Area**
Bauang Substation, Barangay Pottot, Bauang, La Union
Tel Nos. (072)242-1178 or (072)2421174

**District 2—Mt. Province Area**
Beckel Substation, La Trinidad, Benguet
Tel Nos. (074)444-7425 or (074)444-7423

**District 3—North Central Plain Area**
San Manuel Substation, San Manuel, Pangasinan
Tel Nos. (075)565-3260 or (075)656-3267

**District 4—Cagayan Valley Area**
Santiago Substation, Barangay Rizal, Santiago City, Isabela
Tel Nos. (078)682-8406 or (078)682-8408

**District 5—West Central Plain Area**
Hermosa Substation, Barangay Balsik, Hermosa, Bataan
Tel Nos. (047)481-3839 or (045)971-6780

**District 6—South Central Plain Area**
Mexico S/S, Brgy San Jose Matulid, Mexico, Pampanga
Tel Nos. (045)966-0436 or (045)966-0440

**District 7—Northern Tagalog Area**
San Jose Substation, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
Tel Nos. (044)691-3330

**For Residents of South Luzon Area:**

**HR/Administration Division—Regional Office**
San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna
Tel Nos. (049)981-4576

**District 1—Batangas/Cavite**
Mahabang Parang, Batangas City
Tel Nos. (043)300-3591 or (043)300-3592

**District 2—Laguna/Quezon**
Barangay Real, Calamba City
Tel Nos. (049)545-1915 or (049)834-0158

**District 3—Bicol Area**
Peñafrancia, Daraga, Albay
Tel Nos. (052)824-1102/07 or (052)824-7974

**For Residents of Visayas Area:**

**HR/Administration Division—Regional Office**
Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City
Tel Nos. (032)343-9815/9816

**District 1—Panay Area**
Zone III, Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City
Tel Nos. (033)336-1489 or (033)337-8023

**District 3—Leyte-Samar Area**
Barangay Milagro, Ormoc City
Tel Nos. (053)561-0140

**District 4—Negros Area**
Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Tel Nos. (034)435-4418 or (034)708-6988

**For Residents of Mindanao Area:**

**HR/Administration Division—Regional Office**
Ma. Cristina, Iligan City
Tel Nos. (063)223-6612/6613

**District 1—Northwestern Mindanao Area**
Rizal Avenue, San Pedro, Pagadian City
Tel Nos. (062)214-1856 or (062)214-1671

**District 2—Lanao Area**
Overton, Fuentes, Iligan City
Tel Nos. (063)221-6133/6134/6136

**District 3—Northcentral Mindanao Area**
Agoho Drive, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel Nos. (088)227-23716/23744

**District 4—Northeastern Mindanao Area**
J. C. Aquino Avenue, Butuan City
Tel Nos. (085)815-2178, 342-8293

**District 5—Southeastern Mindanao Area**
3rd Floor, D&G Bldg., corner [illegible] & Sampaguita
Mintal, Davao City
Tel Nos. (085)815-2178, 342-8293,

**District 6—Southwestern Mindanao Area**
Calumpang, General Santos City
Tel Nos. (083)553-2819 or (083)552-3269

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**Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission**
5/F DENR Bldg., Visayas Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City
Telephone No. +632-9265234 ; 632-926 6449 ; 929-6626 local 2194
Telefax Nos. +632-9265234 ; 632-926 6445

## Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Republic of the Philippines

### *Construction and Development of Napindan Ferry Station*

The *PRRC*, through the Peso Counterpart Fund of the Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR) under the General Appropriation Act of 2007 (GAA) *R.A. 949* intends to apply the sum of Nineteen Million Eighty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Eight and 40/100 (19,084,738.40) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the Construction and Development of Napindan Ferry Station (EPA-LPP-050) in Brgy. Napindan, Taguig City. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *PRRC* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Contract Package** | Construction and Development of Napindan Ferry Station in Brgy. Napindan, Taguig City |
| **Contract No.** | EPA-LPP-050 |
| **Location** | Barangay Napindan, Taguig City |
| **Contract Duration** | 150 Calendar Days |
| **Project Description** | Construction and Development of Ferry Station, which include the following items of work: Site Development Works, Earthworks, Civil Works, Steel Works, Roofing Works, Ceiling Works, Architectural Works, Sanitary / Plumbing Works, Electrical Works, Pontoon Works and Geotechnical Survey. |

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *PRRC* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.*:

*Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission*
*Deputy Executive Director, Atty. Zoilo L. Andin, Jr.*
*5F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City*

The schedule of Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission – Inter-Agency Bid and Award Committee (PRRC-IABAC) procurement activities is as follows:

| Activity | Date | Time | Venue |
|---|---|---|---|
| Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 15,000.00 | From May 7 to May 14, 2007 | From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | PRRC, 5F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City Deadline for Submission of LOI is on May 11 at 3:00 P.M. |
| Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents | From May 7, to May 14, 2007 | From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m 2007 | |
| Site Inspection | May 15, 2007 | 10:00 a.m. | Brgy. Napindan, Taguig City |
| Pre-Bid Conference | May 15, 2007 | 2:00 p.m. | PRRC Conference Room, 5F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City |
| Deadline for submission of Bids | May 28, 2007 | 10:00 a.m. | PRRC Conference Room, 5F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City |
| Opening of Bids | May 28, 2007 | 10:30 a.m. | PRRC Conference Room, 5F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City |

The method of payment will be by Progress Billing. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount stated in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS) or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and the City of Taguig shall be the implementing agencies of the Project.

The *PRRC-IABAC* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
Deputy Executive Director, Atty. Zoilo L. Andin, Jr.
5F DENR Main Bldg., Visayas Ave., Quezon City
Tel. No. 929-6626 loc. 2238 / 2239 ; 926-6449
Fax. 926-5233 / 926-6449

(Sgd.) ATTY. ZOILO L. ANDIN, JR.
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – May 6 & 12, 2007)

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## PRIME LOTS AT THE HEART OF SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE

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Tel. (02) 5357735

Leonardo Mesiano
CP No. 09185133595

Bldg. 6900 Binictican Drive
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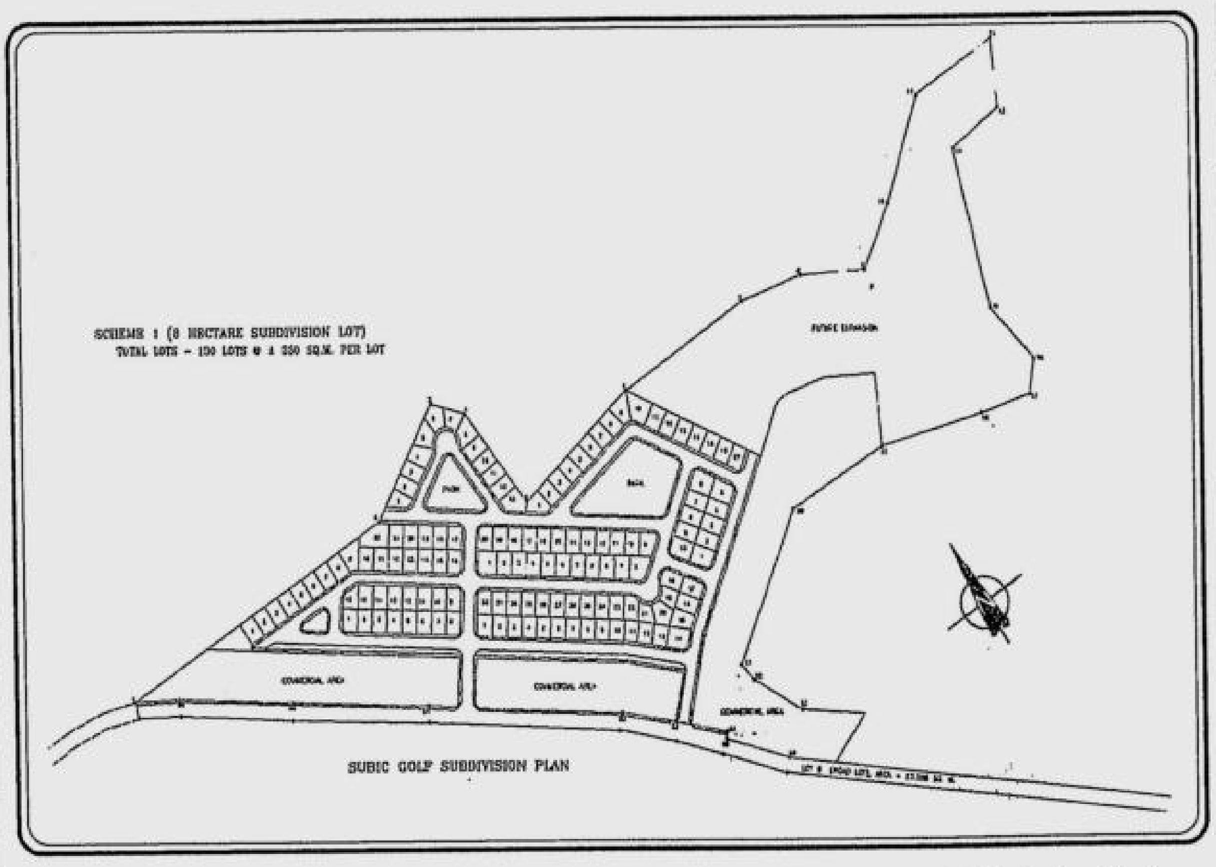
Tel. (047) 2521588-89 or (047) 2522920


SCHEME 1 (8 HECTARE SUBDIVISION LOT)
TOTAL LOTS – 150 LOTS @ ± 250 SQ.M. PER LOT
COMMERCIAL AREA
COMMERCIAL AREA
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Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

* * *

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fourth day of July, two thousand six

## Republic Act No. 93791

AN ACT DEFINING HANDLINE FISHING, PROVIDING EFFECTIVE REGULATIONS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SEC. 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as "The Handline Fishing Law".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

(a) To promulgate specific policies and procedures governing fishing and utilization of handling fishing boats;

(b) To support the development of the handline fishing industry and promote the competitiveness, sustainability and social development of handline fishing and its allied industries.

(c) To strengthen existing rules and regulations governing handline fishing and ensure the safety and seaworthiness of handline fishing boats.

SEC. 3. *Definition of terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms and phrases shall mean as follows:

*(1) Handling Fishing* – a traditional fishing method that uses the hook and a line, a passive fishing gear with a single vertical line carrying one hook and used by simply dropping the line into the water and waiting for the fish to bite.

*(2) Handling Fishing Boat* – a fishing boat with or without outrigger and with or without auxiliary small boats on board that exclusively utilizes the handline fishing method.

SEC. 4. *Handline Fishing Boat Documentation* – The registration, inspection, manning and other documentation handline fishing boats as flag boats shall be with the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), while the licensing and related documentation of said boats as fishing boats shall be with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

SEC. 5. *Fishing by Philippine Handline Fishing Boats in International Waters* – Handline fishing boats of the Philippine registry may operate in international water or waters of other countries that allow such operations. *Provided*, That they comply with the appropriate and applicable safety, manning, radio communications and other standards and requirements geared at promoting seaworthiness: *Provided, however*, That they secure an appropriate international fishing permit and certificate of clearance from the BFAR: *Provided, further*, That the fish caught by handline fishing boats shall be considered as caught in Philippine waters and therefore not subject to all import duties and taxes when the same landed in government designated fish landings and fish ports in the Philippines: Provided, finally, That fishermen on board Philippine registered handline fishing boats conducting fishing activities beyond the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone are not considered as overseas Filipino workers.

SEC. 6. *Manning Complement of Handline Fishing Boats.* – Every handline fishing boat of the Philippine registry, except auxiliary boat, when actually operated, shall be manned in accordance with the following:

(a) The person holding the position of Boat Master shall be issued a Boat Captain License after submitting a Certificate of Engagement from the present boat owner whom he works with, affidavit of boat owner taking the risk and responsibility for engaging the Boat Master, and Certificate of Completion for theoretical and practical training for all applicants to the position. The Identification Card of the Boat Master shall hear the words "ONLY FOR HANDLINE FISHING BOAT".

(b) The person holding the position of Boat Engineer shall be issued a Boat Engine Officer License after submitting a Certificate of Engagement from the present boat owner whom he works with, affidavit of boat owner taking the risk and responsibility for engaging the Boat Engineer, and Certificate of Completion for theoretical and practical training for all applicants to the position. The Identification Card of the Boat Engineer shall bear the words "ONLY FOR HANDLINE FISHING BOATS": *Provided*, That upon approval of this Act, incumbent Boat Masters and Boat Engineers shall be issued their respective licenses after submission of their certificate of Engagement, affidavit of boat owner taking the risk and responsibility and Certificate of Completion for theoretical and practical training: *Provided, further*, That the Certificate of Completion for theoretical and practical training shall be complied within one year: *Provided, furthermore*, That for handling fishing boats that fish outside Philippine waters, the Boat Master, Boat Engineer and other boat personnel required by the appropriate minimum safe manning document shall also submit a copy of their respective Seaman's Identification and Record Book (SIRB).

SEC. 7. *Construction of Handline Fishing Boats* – existing and newly constructed handline fishing boats shall be admeasured/re-admeasured and shall follow prepared boat plan based on the following:

(a) For boats, a picture of five gross tons and below including auxiliary boats, a picture and actual dimensions of the boat submitted by the owner or boat builder.

(b) For boats above five gross tons, the boat plan signed and sealed by a Naval Architect. However, boat plans complying with the dimensions and specifications of previously approved and seals plans by a registered Naval Architect shall be considered as having been approved and sealed by a registered Naval Architect.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, through a technical working committee composed of the BFAR, the MARINA, the Philippine Coast Guard, the National Telecommunication Commission and other concerned government agencies, in consultation with fisherfolk and handline fishing industry organizations and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations including, but not limited to, the establishment of a one-stop shop for the industry, provision for first aid, life saving and firefighting devices, provision and operation of radio communication facilities, reportorial requirements and similar standards that promote seaworthiness for the full implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All existing laws, decree, executive orders and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two newspapers of general circulations.

Approved.

**(Sgd.) MANNY VILLAR**
*President of the Senate*

**(Sgd.) JOSE DE VENECIA**
*Speaker of the House of Representatives*

This Act which is consolidation of House Bill No. 40 and Senate Bill No. 2522 was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on December 18, 2006 and December 13, 2006, respectively.

**(Sgd.) OSCAR G. YABES**
*Secretary of the Senate*

**(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO**
*Secretary General House of Representatives*

Approved March 6, 2007

**(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**
*President of the Philippines*

(PDI – May 6, 2007)

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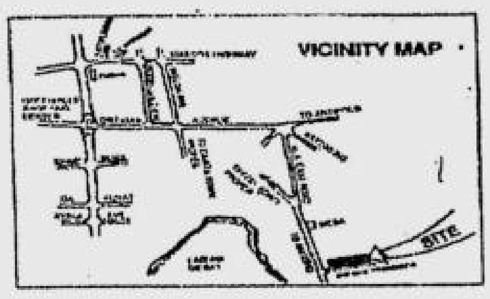
## ABOVE THE REST...

## Hillsdale SUMMIT



BOTONG FRANCISCO AVE., ANGONO, RIZAL

... a prime residential estate east of Metro Manila and amidst the borderline of the panoramic towns of Taytay and Angono

**DIRECT BUYERS GET DISCOUNT**

**PARK DEVELOPERS INC.**
THE REAL ESTATE COMPANY

Main Office: Ground Floor, PSP Bldg., Amang Rodriguez Ave., cor. Marcos Highway
Santolan, Pasig City • Tel. No.: (63-2) 646-0850 to 53 • Telefax: (63-2) 645-3729
Mobile No.: (0922) 4199129

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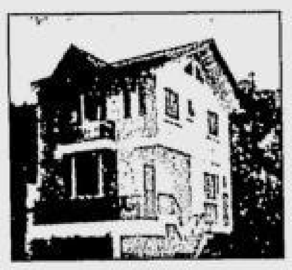
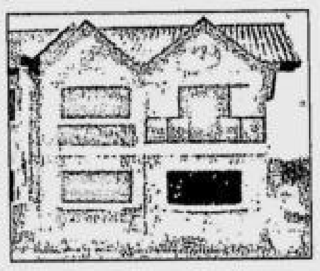
**METRO BAGUIO PROPERTIES FOR SALE**

*Near the strawberry and flower farms...*



Morning Star – 96 sq. m. Floor area



Sunburst - 114 sq.m. Floor Area

**AVAILABLE THRU BANK or PAG-IBIG FINANCING**
**For Inquiries or site tripping please call**
**(074) 422-1675 or 0918 959 1727 or visit us at:**
**WINACA DEV'T CORP.**
**Narda's Bldg., Km.5 La Trinidad, Benguet**
**Website: www.winacarealty.com**
**E-mail: sunflowerridgehomes@yahoo.com**
AGENTS ARE WELCOME

---

**PNOC Exploration Corporation**
PNOC
Bldg.1 Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1634 Taguig City, Philippines PO Box 3279 MCPO Tel. No. 893-6001, 893-1320

### FOR SALE THRU SEALED PUBLIC BIDDING

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

| Item | Description | Qty | Minimum Bid Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Wooden Poles (Treated – various sizes) | 1 lot | Php 5,574,000.00 |

*Note:* The items for public bidding can be inspected at:

| Location | Contact Person | Telephone No. |
|---|---|---|
| PNOC Exploration Corporation Energy Supply Base Mainaga, Mabini Batangas | Ronnie Buenviaje or Belmonte Macalincag | (043) 487-0325 |

Bid forms are available at PNOC-EC Energy Supply Base, Mainaga, Mabini Batangas c/o Ronald G. Buenviaje, tel. no. (043) 487-0325 or at PNOC-EC, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City c/o Iris E. Rivera, tel. no. (02) 840-2024, starting **May 7, 2007**. Ten percent (10%) bid deposit in cash or manager's check is required from the participating bidders.

Deadline for submission of sealed bids is on **May 28, 2007, not later than 2:00 p.m.**, and will be opened on the same date 3:00 p.m. at PNOC Exploration Corporation, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

PNOC-EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality found therein and accepts such bids as maybe considered most advantageous to its interest. The decision of PNOC-EC shall be final and binding.

IER/BCB

(Sgd.) Irvin A. Sarsoza
Admin & HR Manager

(PDI–May 4, 5 & 6, 2007)

---

## AMA BANK

**THE LARGEST USED CAR LOAN BANK IN THE COUNTRY TODAY**

MEMBER: **AMA GROUP OF COMPANIES**
**NO. 1 RURAL BANK / NO. 1 CAR LOAN BANK**
2004/2005 NATIONAL SHOPPERS' CHOICE AWARDEE
**MOST OUTSTANDING RURAL BANK / CAR LOAN BANK**
2004/2005 PHILIPPINE MARKETING EXCELLENCE AWARDEE
**TOP CAR LOAN BANK**
2005 NATIONAL CONSUMERS QUALITY AWARDEE
**MOST OUTSTANDING RURAL BANK**
2005 PHILIPPINE QUALITY AWARDS FOR BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

**USED CAR LOAN PROMO**
**SPECIAL INTEREST RATE AS LOW AS**
**7% p.a.**

ACCEPTABLE YEAR MODELS
**1993-2007**

Also available:
**AMA BANK**
**CAR - LATERAL LOAN**
**Cash Loan Using Your Car as collateral!**
**Fast Processing and Check release.**
**For more details Pls. call at Tel. Nos.**
**413-5777 / 372-6698 / 372-6526 / 373-9913**
**416-8144/416-8145/373-3901 loc. 8302/8303/8220**

---

**Remnant International Christian School**
**Wanted - Academic teachers for high school and tutors for foreigners (Koreans)**

Submit resumé to: Mrs. Jocelyn L. Antiporda
#317 3rd Flr. FBR Arcade Katipunan Ave.,
Loyola Heights Q.C.

Tel. nos. 434-3699/433-4886
http:www.philantioch.com
Fax. no. 926-9370

Now accepting enrollees for Ist to IVth year high school. Scholarship slots are still abailable!

---

## 1 COORDINATOR

- Know how to speak Korean language
- 40-50 years old
- Fluent in English
- With ability to get along with all types of people

Qualified applicant may apply personally to

**KT Global Subic Inc.**
**15-18 Subic Bay Commercial Light and Industrial Park,**
**Subic Bay Freep ort Zone**

---

## MAKATI LOT FOR SALE

**Area: 400 SQ.M.**
**Location: Felipe St., Poblacion**
**- Only 3 houses from Kalayaan Avenue at the back of Iglesia Ni Cristo Church**
**- near Rockwell Center**

## METRO BAGUIO LOT FOR SALE

**Area: 15 Hectares**
**Location: Acop, Tublay, Benguet**
**With plenty of pine trees, Titled and suitable for Retirement Village or Subdivision & only 30 minutes away from Baguio towards Sagada & Banaue**

**CALL: 0918 941 8659**

---

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

**NEEDED**

### OFFICE BUILDING FOR LEASE IN DAVAO CITY

Our company is looking for an office building in Davao City with the following features:

- Area: 1,500-1,800 square meters in a single structure
- Well built and has close access to the main street
- Located inside a secured compound with concrete perimeter wall
- Preferably near the airport and available for our exclusive use
- Must have ample parking space for 20-30 vehicles
- Currently with telephone, power and water connections

Initial contract duration is 3-5 years with provision for possible renewal/extension.

*For offers, please contact:*

VICENTE C. BETOS
Administrative Manager
Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program
1 Ladislawa Bldg., Ladislawa Avenue, Buhangin, Davao City
Tel: (082) 225-1569 to 75 loc. 102

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
**REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII**
Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte

DepED

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Department of Education, Regional Office No. VIII,** through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites CDA Registered Cooperatives eligible and qualified as suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors of school furniture to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Project | : **Supply and Door-to-Door Delivery of Tables & Chairs, Elementary and Secondary Armchairs and Teachers Tables & Chairs in Various Schools in Region VIII** |
| ABC & Funding Scource | : **Government of the Philippines CY 2006 GAA (15%) Allocation of DepED Desks & Armchairs Project** |
| Contract Duration | : **One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days** |
| Delivery Sites | : **"Door to Door" delivery to various recipient schools**<br>**(Refer to Schedule of Requirements)** |

| Package | DESCRIPTION | QUANTITY | ABC (PhP) |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | Elementary Tables & Chairs (All wood) | 2,319 | 4,930,932.50 |
| | Teachers Tables & Chairs (All Wood) | 65 | |
| B | Secondary Armchairs (All Wood) | 3,287 | 2,836,067.50 |
| | Teachers Tables & Chairs (All Wood) | 60 | |
| | TOTAL | | 7,767,000.00 |

The schedule of BAC activities is a follows:

| Activities | Schedule/Venue |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance/Availability of Bid Documents | May 15-21, 2007, (8am-5pm) BAC-Secretarial |
| 2. Pre-Bid Conference | May 22, 2007, 2:00 pm RICTC - DepED RO8 |
| 3. Receipt/Opening of Bids | June 4, 2007, 2:00 pm RICTS - DepED RO8 |

The **Bidding Documents** shall be available at BAC Secretariat Office, DepED Regional Office No. VIII, Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte, starting on **May 15, 2007 to May 21, 2007**, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) only, per package,** to the DepED RO VIII Cashier.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules & Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http//www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurement service.gov.ph or call DepED-Regional Office No. VIII, at Telephone/Fax No. 053 3237180.

The Department of Education Regional Office No. VIII reserves the right to reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without hereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ALBERTO T. ESCOBARTE**
Director III
(Assistant Regional Director)
BAC Chairman

(PDI – May 6, 2007)

---

**Check out more jobs from JobMarket Libre every Tuesday**

*Inquire about the JobMarket Libre at 897-8808 loc 514.*

JOB Market

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MAINTENANCE W/EX.N PUMP HOUSE GIRL COOK BOY TEL. # 818-9398/890-2392

## MEDICAL

**GARMA CLINIC**
**VD SPECIALIST**
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, STD, HERPES
CHILD & ADULT CIRCUMCISION
Painless, Bloodless
SKIN DISEASES
ALLERGIES RE-CURRENT
UTI, ALMORANAS,
ERECTION PROBLEMS
INFERTILITY/IMPOTENCE
MOLE/CYST/SCAR REMOVAL
KELOID/PAP SMEAR
COMPLETE LABORATORY
Gama Bldg., No. 8 Purdue St.,
Cubao, Q.C.
OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM MON. to SAT.
TEL. NOS. 4392706
4373898/9139474

## CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

**GV BUILDERS CO.**
Free Estimate/Design
Mr. Lim 0922-8886622 / 735-2052

## TUTORIAL LESSONS

STUDIES / DOX 09175310994

Tutorial for Nippongo
English and Filipino,
in30Hours.3 to 5students.
Contact: Prof. Kikuchi
Tel# 896-0005.
Mobile: 09196827555
or Ms. Frias Tel 8966807

## HOUSEHOLD JOBS

DirectMaidYayaInICookDriver 7289080

Drct Maid Yaya Inl/cook Driver Boy 7282239

DRVR MAID MDWFE 8902722

GOOD MAID YAYA BOY C-GIVER DRIVER COOK TUTOR 421-4652

House Maid 4,000 09214186008

House Maid P4,000
Tel: 897-01-04 Cel: (0921)4186008

H'WORKING MAIDS 421-3828

NEWLY ARRIVED
PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND
MAIDS
CALL : RUBY
873-5062 • 872-0265

Tsldmaids Yaya Cgver Mwfe cook boy 7282239

YAYA COOK H'MAID DRIVER 8969219

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

ATTENTION: INVESTORS BATAAN CARBON PLANT for Lease or Sale 7 Has. w/ ofc bldgs. warehouse 5000 sqms. 8509507 / 09178016573

## HOUSE & LOT

Grnmdws P28M pool 6821676

HOUSE & LOT PAMP SAN FDO 65 SQ FA 110 SQM LA 8133568 8138420

PQUE 504m² Improved H2O Station & 2 Deepwell 800ft Depth 7878888

## CONDO/TWNHSE

16K/mo. near Rockwell & mkti CBD KAT 09186746612

1BR Mktl 4M 09175331366

2BR Fort 6.2M 09175331366

CONDO/SALE 2BR 2.3M NEG. PASIG TINA 0915-6481997

CUBAO P1.5M 10%DP 7yrs to pay 0% Interest 09178667949

LE MIRAGE
FEW UNITS LEFT!!!
As low as 30% D.P.
15yrs. Bank fin.
(P18,415.95/mo)
Ready for Occupancy
Call (02)-5225950 / 5228703
0917-8307643

MAKATI 1.8M 09189418408

One (1) UNIT CONDO AT FRABELLA 2BR & 2T&B w/ Maid's Rm. & T&B one slot parking lot Contact Pearlie 365-4206/4207 or 0916-3838259

PERFECT VIEW & LOCATION ROXAS BLVD. COR. TM KALAW 2BR 9013518/09103293883

QC 3BR TOWNHOUSE 5799759

QC Sikatuna Thses 4br w/ grg nr Ateneo UP Ace Supermart Call 9215328 ; 09166496838

•RESORT CONDO PSIG/MANDA 1/2/3 BR 1.5M&up 9165945185

Rush Sale Promo!!!
2BR PHAUS (127sqm) - 4.9M
2BR (75sqm) - 2.5M
1BR (40sqm) - 1.5M
Studio (25sqm) - 1M
ASIAWEALTH TOWER
Near La Salle / St. Scholastica
Call (02) 522-59-50
0917-8307643

San Juan 2.5M 09189418408

Stdio Ayala 3M 09175331366

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

10563 SQM P200/SQM NEG.
696 SQM P400/SQM NEG.
9500 SQM P250/SQM NEG.
LOCATION: LAIYA IBABAO
SAN JUAN, BATANGAS
200 METERS AWAY FRM
SHORELINE NEAR BEACH
RESORT CONTACT BILLY
SASUYA TEL. 025292246
MOBILE 09157482575

MUNTINLUPA
AYALA ALABANG
Tamarind Drive 740 sqm 1 Block Montessori School CAVITE
Wedge Woods
Wedgewood Ave. 801 sqm Near Sta. Rita Exit
Tels: 818-2781 ; 751-5472
Mobile: 0916-5582538

## LOT

134SQM NIA VILLAGE 9840768 ; 09163064522

577m² Sn Dionisio Pque 4M Only 0917-5367018

6,000m² Lot Along Tacay Rd. BAGUIO CITY Call 660-9223 or 234-6652

75 MAGAT SALAMAT PROJ4 6M 9840768;09163064522

87m² 2.4Mneg Samp7430686

BFRV 235m² 354m² @6900 T-7969407 C-09278788692

LAG 501 P1.9M 09195665377

LOTS PAMP 100 TO 165SQ SAN FDO ON MC ARTHUR 2750SQ 8138420 8133568

PUNTA FUEGO LOT 7519198

VALLEYGOLF SUBD 3995sqm P2200/m² call 8246692

## BUSINESS SPACE

Established Fine Dining RESTO alng Kalayaan QC P30M Call 4568371 /09178373234

## WANTED TO BUY

ONSALE Cheap I-POD / Watch Digicam Call 0915-9170346 Log on http://book.geocities.jp/nac_project/

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

## HOUSE

29Kuala Lumpur BF 2BR2TB 17T Tel 721-8317 ; 721-4304

BUNG 3BR 1TB Mapayapa 3 nr Fview P10T Call 436-5057

Dn Antonio 3BR 2TB 4832030

## CONDO/TWNHSE

2BR 25K Estwd 09175331366

EAST ORTIGAS MANSION PASIG 2BR • 0906-2654917

FF Stdio 30K Mkt 09175331366

MALAYAN PLAZA ORTIGAS STUDIO UNIT 34.3M² 0927-5719238/0916-2276594

MKT 3BR EGI 09208644018

OFC SPACE PASAYROAD LEG VIL 461 SQ 8133568 8138420

RES CONDO 1BR SEMI FURN EASTWOOD 8138420 8133568

RES CONDO NR ATENEO 2BR W/ PARKING 8133568 8138420

RES CONDO TAGAYTAY 2-3 BR 8133568 8138420

XAVIERHILLS P16T 9328744

## APARTMENT

1&2BR NR P.GIL 5634007/5691978

AIRPORT APARTEL 8544832

Pasay 2BRM 8.5K T-5100915

Proj 8 4BR 2TB P15T 09179688923

Studio/RM Rent Bangkal Makati 8447524/4584410

3BR 2TB 2114 CARREON 5649565

## FOR LEASE

LPL Center 2BRs ff P50T
Makati 2BRs 2TB P20T
Ofc Condo 100m² P28T
LPL Manor 1BR ff P20T
Tagaytay 2BRs ff P20T
Call 8509507 / 09178016573

## ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Kamias Rd 3.8T Nice 4368050

## BEDSPACE

MALE BEDSPACE IN ORTIGAS CONDO 9143941 • 09209232484

## RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pnsol Hotspr Priv P6T 7870543

## LOAN & MORTGAGE

PERSONAL LOANS 524-3197

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE
1) 2 pcs brand new – Orion E1 wireless GSM Gateway = $10,500 each
2) Used like New Cisco AS5350 Voice Gateway = $6850 AS5350 – 2E1 – 60 – Ac, comes with 2E1 and 60 Voice Channels, (1) AS535 – D FC – 2CE1, (1) AS535 – DPC – 60 NP
3) 20 pcs slightly used Wireless Valley = $100 each
4) 16 pcs Slightly Used Telular Phonecell SX5e = $200 each
Contact Nos.
0916-6357276 – Tess
0919-4210930 – Donny

DENTHAPHIL, INC.
Notice is given that Demand Draft No. 001372 in the amount of US$7,500 under the name of RIVKIN RADLER LLP was lost since February 19, 2007.
(PDI - May 4-10, 2007)

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

HONDA '96 ESI Blue 188T 1st Own Loaded T-09194008787

## CARS

03 MXw/VCD MARIE T7519198

'96 P550K 0922-8886622 BENZ

## OTHER CAR BRANDS

*BERYLLE CARS*
Araneta Ctr Cubao nr Ali Mall
4391117 ; 09178212618
Finance T-in Consignment
Pajero Trooper Terano Safari MU Largo Estima Odyssey MPV Urvan Chariot Delica S.Wagon Granvia Regius Surf ELF Canter etc Branch 2179 Taft Ave Pasay

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

VANS 9226702 9214535

## CAR LOAN

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 6560140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% EASY CARLOAN 8997759

1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 7262780

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

2nd Hand H/C Disp 5Gals (PET/PC) Good Qlty, Con, Low Price 5617091/5639376

## BILLIARDS

B'LIARD TBLE 38T-UP 8014494

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

Hear."AIDS" 3.8T 0905-3249919

## OTHER EQUIPMENT

Machine Shop Eqpmnt 4 Sale 900-0592

## PETS

Chiwa² 12T up 09179711045

Siberian Huskies 4166600

## WANTED TO BUY

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SWISS WATCHES BEST PRICE
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& other SWISS SWATCHES
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831-6712
0917-8141967

WANTED!
Mech'l Design Engineers

Designing & Engineering work of Forklift truck component for the **Japanese company** belonging to **Sumitomo group.**

Up to 28 years old.
Male or Female
have good ability for above job with us.

send complete **Resumé with colored picture.**

**SUMINAC PHILIPPINES, INC.**
Blk. 2, Lot 5 & 6,Phase 3, FCIE,
Bgy. Langkaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite
Tel No. : (046) 402-0760 **(Abby Ramirez)**

IMMIGRATION AUSTRALIA
**ELPIDIO JNR. BAUTISTA**
Registered Migration Agent-MARN: 0002606
Free Consultation:
Contact Details:

Australia
ELPIDIO BAUTISTA, JR.
(Immigration Consultant)
26 Spitz Ave. Newington NSW
2127 Australia
Telefax (612)-9737 9506
Mobile: 0401 465494
Email: ejbautista@tpg.com.au

Philippines
LAW OFFICE OF:
Elpidio R. Bautista, Jr.
Filinvest-1, Batasan Hills
Quezon City, M.M. 1126
PHILIPPINES
Tel/Fax (632) 9314046
(632) 9510180

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EGG SHELL
MEAT
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0917-750-42-85

## PUBLIC NOTICES

## ANNOUNCEMENT

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Travel Agency Management Course
Negotiation Seminar Jazz/Hip-Hop
Dance Class # 8899464,8894647
09192238128,09287208078

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of SPS EUTEMIO HACHERO and AURORA FERNANDEZ Located in Buenvista Uson Masbate was the subject of a extra judicial settlement with conditional deed of sale executed By the heirs before Notary Public
Atty Manuel V. Recondola Per Doc No 189 Page No 38 Book No III Series of 2006
(PDI-April 22,29 & May 6'07)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of ANTONIO P. RAMOS was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 9; Page No. 3; Book No. 1; Series of 2006 before Notary Public Sixto P. Soriano Jr
(PDI-Apr 29, May 6&13,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Concha E. Rejuso has been the subject of an affidavit of Self-Adjudication by her sole heir Angelina E. Rejuso as per Document No. 228; Page No. 47; Book No. XI; Series of 2007 Notary Public Atty Andres C. Ocampo of Makati City
(PDI-Apr 22, 29&May 6,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SPS. LETICIA DE GUZMAN MAURICIO and DANILO REYES MAURICIO has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per DOC. # 96; PAGE # 21; BOOK # IX; SERIES OF 2007. Before notary public Atty. Leticia S. Mariano-De Guia of Paranaque City
(PDI-April 22, 29 & May 6, 2007)

STORE SUPERVISOR
30 to 45 years old; M/F; college graduate with experience; computer literate; problem solving skills; public relations skills

FASTFOOD SUPERVISOR
30 to 45 years old, M/F, preferably HRM graduate; with experience, computer literate; problem solving skills; public relations skills

OPERATIONS CLERK
25 to 35 years old. Female; college level, with experience, organizing skills, proficient in office applications

Call Kathy at 743-3328 or 732-1954 (9am to 6pm)

RYKEROLL
RENT-A-VAN
07 URVAN ESCAPADE
10 HOURS P1,800
WITH DRIVER
7878776 / 7964377
09213497170

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **NENITA DE VENECIA CIRINEO SOBERANO** has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 10307, Series of 2006 before Consul Millicent Cruz-Paredes, New York, USA.
(PDI-April 29, May 2 & 9, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BIENVENIDO GARCIA and the late MAYORICO H. SANDICO covered by TCT #89791-R-Mexico, Pamp. was extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc # 2 Page 1 Book I Series 2007. Before Notary Public Atty Fernando F. Colom of Quezon City.
(PDI - May 6, 13 & 20, 2007)

## NOTICE OF LOSS

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB STOCK CERT#6708 ISSUED TO GODOFREDO R. GALINDEZ JR. IF NO CONTEST RECEIVED NEW CERT. WILL BE ISSUED (PDI Apr.29, May 6,13,2007)

Lost PASSPORT TRE ENTRY VISA NORAIDA ACMAD
If Found Call 09069570056 6857695

Lost S2 of DR ANNA BORGAILY with S2 NO. 157785 If found call 09178333408(PDI-May 6'07)

Meralco-A Certificate #378885-90 shares under the name of **FRANCISCA MAGDALENA C. CHUA** was declared lost. If no contest received w/in 1 yr., new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-April 22, 29 & May 6, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that 206,429 Ayala Land Inc. shares with Certificate No. 8116630 and 1,202,632 Ayala Land Inc. shares with Certificate No. 5986 registered in the name of Luis Y. Locsin have been lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Apr. 22,29 & May 6, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that Zuellg Pharma O.R# 481201K-481203K issued to May Flores; 588501k-588504k issued to Ferdinand Minoc;733851J-733900J issued to Arleen Manjares;655750J-655800J issued to Leilanie Ramos ;400951-41000 issued to Erna Peregrina.
If found pls call 8191561.
PDI(Apr 29 May6&13'07)

# LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

ISO 14001 CERTIFIED
Official Depository of the Republic of the Philippines

## INVITATION TO BID

The **Land Bank of the Philippines** invites interested parties to bid for the following properties on **CASH and "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS:**

| | PROPERTY DESCRIPTION | LOCATION | MINIMUM BID PRICE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | An 80,000-sq.m. agri & ind'l land w/ Seafood Cannery/Utility Bldg/Canteen/ Guard House/Water Tank/ Powerhouse | Brgy. Timpas, Panit-an, Capiz | P13,758,000.00 |
| 2. | Machineries/Equipment | Brgy. Timpas, Panit-an, Capiz | P4,747,000.00 |
| 3. | Lot w/ warehouse LA: 750sqm; FA: 425 | Calao, Alicia, Isabela | P783,000.00 |
| 4. | 3 units Harvesters | Meycauayan, Bulacan | P50,400/unit |
| 5. | Refrigerated salad station | Meycauayan, Bulacan | P31,400.00 |
| 6. | Cold Baine Marie | Meycauayan, Bulacan | P34,000.00 |
| 7. | 2 units Chiller | Meycauayan, Bulacan | P28,800/unit |
| 8. | Burner w/ oven | Meycauayan, Bulacan | P27,400.00 |
| 9. | 4 units Daewoo Buses | Meycauayan, Bulacan | P714,300/unit |
| 10. | 1 unit Daewoo Bus | Meycauayan, Bulacan | P653,300.00 |
| 11. | Gretag Photo Eqpt. | Bicutan | P86,1370.00 |
| | Various residential lots w/ improvements at Rosarito/ Betina/ Mindoro/ Ma. Cristina/ Verdad/ D. Santiago/ G. Tuazon/ Visayan/ Don Quijote Streets in Sampaloc, Manila: | | |
| 12. | Lot 1 Blk. 5A - 175.30 sq.m | | P1,402,000.00 |
| 13. | Lot 2 Blk. 5A - 144.40 sq.m | | P1,155,000.00 |
| 14. | Lot 4 Blk. 5A - 187.50 sq.m | | P1,875,000.00 |
| 15. | Lot 6 Blk. 5A - 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 16. | Lot 7 Blk. 5A - 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 17. | Lot 8 Blk. 5A - 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 18. | Lot 4 Blk. 5T - 244.90 sq.m | | P2,939,000.00 |
| 19. | Lot 5 Blk. 5T- 209.05 sq.m | | P2,509,000.00 |
| 20. | Lot 8 Blk. 5T- 154.30 sq.m | | P1,852,000.00 |
| 21. | Lot 10 Blk. 5T- 194.80 sq.m | | P2,338,000.00 |
| 22. | Lot 16 Blk. 5T- 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 23. | Lot 17 Blk. 5T- 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 24. | Lot 19 Blk 5T - 105.00 sq.m | | P840,000.00 |
| 25. | Lot 21 Blk. 5T- 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 26. | Lot 24 Blk. 5T- 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 27. | Lot 25 Blk. 5T- 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 28. | Lot 28 Blk. 5T - 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 29. | Lot 29 Blk. 5T- 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 30. | Lot 30 Blk. 5T- 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 31. | Lot 31 Blk. 5T- 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 32. | Lot 32 Blk. 5T - 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 33. | Lot 33 Blk. 5T - 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 34. | Lot 34 Blk. 5T - 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 35. | Lot 40 Blk. 5T- 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 36. | Lot 5 Blk. 5U – 223.20 sq.m | | P1,786,000.00 |
| 37. | Lot 2 Blk. 5V – 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 38. | Lot 4 Blk. 5V – 179.80 sq.m | | P1,438,000.00 |
| 39. | Lot 5 Blk. 5V – 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 40. | Lot 6 Blk. 5V - 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 41. | Lot 7 Blk. 5V – 187.50 sq.m | | P1,875,000.00 |
| 42. | Lot 10 Blk. 5V – 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 43. | Lot 11 Blk. 5V – 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 44. | Lot 12 Blk. 5V – 218.80 sq.m | | P1,750,000.00 |
| 45. | Lot 13 Blk. 5V – 226.50 sq.m | | P1,812,000.00 |
| 46. | Lot 14 Blk. 5V – 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 47. | Lot 15 Blk. 5V – 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 48. | Lot 17 Blk. 5V – 150.00 sq.m | | P1,200,000.00 |
| 49. | Lot 6 Blk. RP 29 – 180.00 sq.m | | P1,440,000.00 |
| 50. | Lot 10 Blk RP 29 - 221.40 sq.m | | P1,771,000.00 |
| 51. | Lot 1 Blk. RP 28 – 274.60 sq.m | | P2,746,000.00 |
| 52. | Lot 2 Blk. RP 28 – 175.00 sq.m | | P1,750,000.00 |
| 53. | Lot 3 Blk. RP 28 – 180.00 sq.m | | P1,800,000.00 |
| 54. | Lot 9 Blk. RP 28 – 180.00 sq.m | | P2,160,000.00 |
| 55. | Lot 10 Blk RP 28 - 180.00 sq.m | | P2,160,000.00 |
| 56. | Lot 10 Blk. 45 – 174.58 sq.m | | P1,205,000.00 |
| 57. | Lot 1/Pcs-4471 -29.75 sq.m | | P1,298,000.00 |
| 58. | Lot 1 Psd- 47 – 139.10 sq.m | | P1,669,000.00 |
| 59. | Lot 26 Psd – 47 – 172.50 sq.m | | P2,242,000.00 |
| 60. | Lot 46 SWO 7310 – 150 sq.m | | P1,800,000.00 |

Sealed bids together with the 10% bid bond in the form of Cash or Manager's Check will be received at the Special Assets Department, 30th Floor, Landbank Plaza, Malate, Manila on **May 17, 2007, Thursday** not later than **10:00 am.**

For item nos. 3-11, public bidding will be held also on May 17, 2007 at LBP Leasing Corp., 15th Floor, SSHG Law Center, No. 105 Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City. For inquiry & bidding forms, please contact Riza or Susan at tel no. 818-2200 loc. 410 or 423.

In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be followed immediately by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. **The increase in the open bidding shall be in multiples of P10,000.00 for item nos. 1-2; 12 -60.**

The Bid Documents will be available at the Special Assets Dept. (c/o May or Tiffany) starting May 7, 2007.

The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on May 10, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the 30th Floor Conference Room, Landbank Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar St., Malate.

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-listed properties as well as legal status of the title before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis. The winning bidder shall take possession of the awarded property without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

For more information, please visit or call the SPAD at telephone no. 551-2200 locals 2374, 2481, 7248, 2482, 7645.

**Landbank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of Landbank shall be final and binding.**

(Sgd.) **CECILIA C. BORROMEO**
**HEAD OFFICE COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL**

(PDI – May 6, 2007)

## NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice of Loss of the fl. RFM Corporation Stock Certificate
in favor of
SERVER CHILDREN Trust Fund
Issue Date
Aug 2,1993
Sept 24,1993
July 15,1994
Certificate No.
8000001013 A, 8000001100 A,
8000001174 A
No. of Shares
6,275 ,12,410, 18,615
Kindly call telephone no. 818-9071.
(PDI- April 22, 29 & May 6'07)

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BACON P280/kilo 09195665377

INDEPENDENT BUS. ASSOCIATE 09178901851 8531008

ELOAD DEALER 09193429747

Foot Detox Machns 0905-3249919 4160123/1023 Ofc Hrs.

Prepaid Loading Dealer/Retail Smart Globe Sun PLDT Internet up 2 30% disc 09225885851

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Rush!!!Salon/For Sale Owner Leaving For U.S. Contact •0918-5300032• Pque

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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COUNTER / RECEPTIONIST FOR SPA. PT OR NURSING GRADUATE TEL 635-0668 LOOK FOR NEP

ISMP is Now Hiring for Pre Grade School TEACHERS Pls Call 640-2009 640-7337 0926-8488889

LIC. PHARMACIST QC Area T-714-7142 / send resume at mvicperalta@yahoo.com

M'wife Caregiver Yaya H'girl Cook H.S. 8510250 4974960

NEWLY ARRIVED PROV'L & CITY ALL AROUND MAIDS MIDWIFE YAYA COOK LABA SCREENED W/CLEAR CALL; RUBY 873-5062•872-0265

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Female Computer Literate
Call 948-8256 / 948-2263

RUSH HIRING 09212474842 MIKI

SEC ACCTNG CLERK SINGLE 7417060 7413214

URGENT HIRING! ACCOUNTING / ADMIN ASST F 20-28 YO W/OR W/O EXP PREFERABLY RESIDING IN QC PLS CALL 718-2653 M-F OR SEND RESUME TO: raprebueno@tri-isys.com

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• 10W/6W/Trailer Driver & Helper
• Auto Electrician
T - 6719579

WANTED: MASTER CUTTER/SEWER, COUTURE BRIDAL EXP. 2 WORK IN PASAY.
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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WANTED: Sales Agents with fix monthly allowance plus commissions. See us at: 39 Westgate Tower Investment Drive Ayala, Alabang, Muntinlupa City Tel: 809-0025

WANTED
SECRETARY
MASSEUSE
MANICURISTS
Call: 721-5055 / 721-2797

WANTED TUTOR FOR TUTORIAL IN SAN JUAN. GOOD IN ENGLISH & MATH. CALL 726-5117

MASSAGE THERAPIST M/F W/ TRAINING ; W/ OR W/O EXPERIENCE 8246765 0917-8516398 / 4977818

WANTED DRAFTSMAN ASAP SUBMIT RESUME @F 156 AMORSOLO ST LV MAKATI

# MANUEL LOPEZ GUZMAN

**Born November 29, 1928**

*Peacefully joined our Creator on May 4, 2007.*

His wife, **MAYBELLE**; children, **EDUARDO** & **JUDY**, **ANGELA** & **EMILIO**, **REGINA** & **DAMIEN**, and **EMMANUEL**; grandchildren, **DIEGO** and **LUIS**, **JOSE** and **JAVIER**, **MARTIN**, **SEBASTIAN**, **GABRIEL** and **ISABELLA**; brothers and sisters, **NIEVES** & (†)**FEDERICO**, **LEONOR** & (†)**SERVANDO**, **ROSALINA**, **DONATO** & **IRMINGARD**, **BENJAMIN** & **ESTRELLA** and **LUZ**; sisters-in-law, **JOY** and **EDWINA**; and nieces and nephews request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

A requiem mass was held at the St. Vincent de Paul Church, San Marcelino, Manila on May 5, 2007.

He now lies in state at the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

# ENRIQUE PANTALEON MAGSAYSAY, SR.

**Former Mayor of Castillejos, Zambales**

November 10, 1944 – May 3, 2007

He is survived by his children **Manny** and wife **Cristina Castro**, **Candy** and husband **Manny Camitan**, **Jun Jun** and wife **Rica Exalla**; sisters **Fely Magsaysay**, **Rose** and husband **Pete Cabrales**; brother **Jo Mag** and wife **Inez Montelibano**; grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

His remains lie in state in his home in Barrio del Pilar, Castillejos, Zambales.

Interment will be on Monday, May 7 after the 9:00 a.m. mass at the San Nicolas Parish Church in Castillejos.

*"If we have a single flower for every time we think of you, we could walk forever in a garden."*

*In Loving Memory*

*of the Fourth Death Anniversary of*

# ROLANDO V. CRUZ

October 24, 1937 - May 6, 2003

Remembering **RVC**'s life brings us joy and though our hearts still grieve, there is so much love and comfort in the memories he left behind.

Masses have been offered for RVC's eternal peace and happiness. We request the readers and our friends to say a prayer for him, too.

*In Loving Memory of*

# Bienvenido "Dido" Joven Valdes

22 March 1921 – 28 February 2007

Our dear family and friends,

We cherish deeply your dear, dear presence, encouraging words, fervent prayers, your flowers which uplifted our spirits, and even the food that you shared that gave us the strength to go on.

Although our Papa (Titong Di) will be sorely missed, we take solace in the fact that he is now at peace in the most loving hands of our Lord.

Thank you.

Spouse - **Nena**; children - **Alex** and **Tina Castro**; **Mayi** and **Lulu Casas**; grandchildren **Anton**, **Ginnie**, **Miguel**, **Vicente** and **Regina**; brothers and sisters - **Jaime** (†) and **Matilde Martin**, **Sr. Trinitas (Carmeling)**, **Carlos** and **Aida Abad Santos** (†), **Sr. Nieves (Hermy)**, **Enrique** (†) and **Gertrudis Villanueva**, **Jesus** and **Cynthia Ongpin**, **Antonio Lamug** (†) and **Rosario** (†), **Jose Ocampo** (†) and **Lourdes** (†), **Cesar Veluz** and **Suzette**

In Commemoration of the
**1st Year Death Anniversary**
of

## *ROMEO B. ESPIRITU, M.D.*

(January 31, 1931 - May 7, 2006)

Masses will be offered on **MAY 7, 2007** at:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Christ the King Church**<br>Greenmeadows Ave., QC | **7:00 AM** |
| **Sanctuario de San Jose**<br>Greenhills, San Juan | **6:15 PM** |

# FRANCISCA AIROSO CARRILLO

*Died in the Grace of our Lord*
*on May 4, 2007 at the age of 78.*

Her bereaved husband **RUFINO**; children **ALBERT**, **MAURO** and **ANA MARIA** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Lourdes Chapel of the Floresco Funeral Home at 219 Gen. Luna Street, Concepcion, Malabon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at the Tugatog Cemetery, City of Malabon after the 2:00 p.m. Solemn Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish in Gen. Luna St., Malabon City.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## NREA Jesclare Chapel a tourist and spiritual retreat

FAST BECOMING A POPULAR tourist and spiritual retreat destination, the National Real Estate Association, Inc. (NREA) – Jesclare Chapel, which sits atop a ridge in Hacienda Dolores, Porac, Pampanga, has transformed its facilities to attract more local and foreign travelers with the inauguration and blessing of its newly landscaped patio and garden, and the widening of the service access to complement its 125-concrete steps leading to the worship site last Holy Thursday.

This was bared by NREA Chairman Jose V. Manalad who led officials and special guests including Porac Mayor Exequiel Gamboa who cut the ceremonial ribbon, Fr. Resty Lumanlan, SVD, who officiated the thanksgiving mass and blessing, and local coordinator Peter David.

"We have also caused plastering of the mountain slopes to curb further soil erosion," Manalad said during NREA's annual Lenten "Pabasa" tradition.

The event was also highlighted by the distribution of food and clothing to the Aetas and Porac indigents as part of NREA's outreach program.

Major sponsors are Mayor Gamboa, Pres. Alejandro Mañalac, Trustees Jose Angelico Angeles, Adelaido de Guzman, Emely S. Medina, Reynaldo Munsayac and Bobby M. Vicencio. Other donors are Janet Sy, Josie de Leon, Renato Legaspi, Lydia Guevara and Mon Pelayo.

The worthwhile event was handled by a committee led by Atty. Nene Estrada, Engrs. Bon Baylon and Roy Beating; Col. Dick Medrana, Seth Pusung, Juling Pingol, Lita Mallari and the Secretariat staff.

**An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.**

*Always caring...* **INQUIRER OBITUARIES** WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:** ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

**More Classified Ads**

Social Security System ...... A8
DECS-Sedip .................... A8
PEZA-Mactan .................. A10

JOB Market
SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2007
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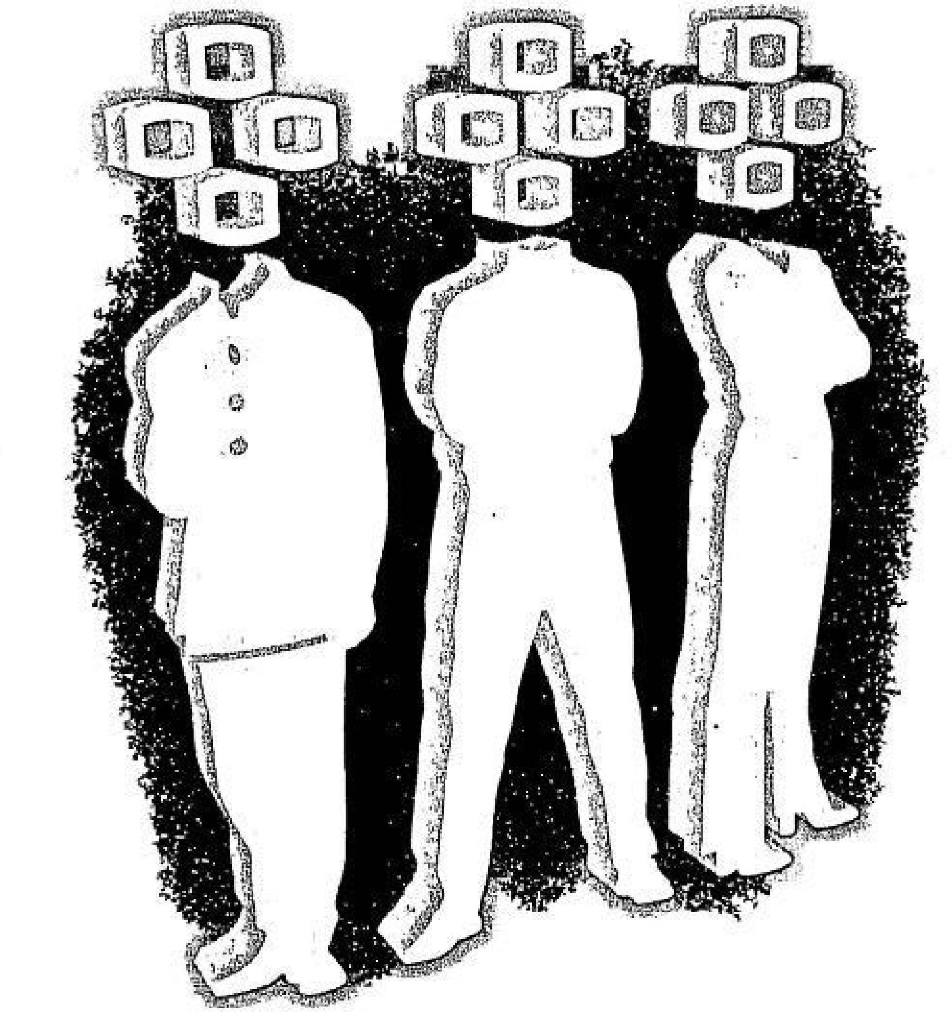
For jobseekers, log on to:
www. jobmarketonline.com
JOBMarket is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
RATES (R-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon
Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Find A Career In Here
51



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## We're looking for self motivated, goal-oriented, fast learners to join our global ranks...

**Java Architects, C++ Architects and .Net Architects**
- Must have 8-10 years work related experience and 3 years experience as an Architect
- Experience and knowledge in relational databases, operating systems, middleware, workflow and enterprise integration, application server and in the use of design patterns, idioms and package architecture principles

**Java/J2EE Developers**
- Must have at least 3-5 years experience in actual application development, analysis, design, construction and implementation
- Experience and knowledge in JBOSS, Eclipse, Weblogic, Linux, Websphere, etc.

**SAS Developers**
- SAS Data Integration Specialists
- SAS Intelligence Storage Administrators
- SAS Analytics Developers
- SAS Business Intelligence Specialist

**C++ Developers**
- Must have at least 3 years experience in object-oriented software development in C/C++ programming on Windows and/or Unix environment
- Familiarity with SQL, Crystal Report, Windows NT and Solaris Operating Systems will be an added advantage

**C#.Net Developers**
- Must have at least 1-2 year(s) of actual programming experience in C# and .Net
- High proficiency with C# and/or VB.Net, XML, ASP.Net, MS SQL Server and Perl

**Visual Basic Programmers**
- Must have at least 2-4 years of work experience using Visual Basic
- Knowledge or experience in Java and C++ is an advantage

**.Net Team Lead**
- Must have at least 3 years of actual programming experience in VB.Net and at least 1 year team lead experience
- High proficiency with C# and/or VB.Net, XML, ASP.Net, MS SQL Server, Perl

**Business Intelligence Lead**
- Must have at least 3 years experience in the management of datawarehouse implementations
- Strong background in RDBMS/OLAP tools and ETL tools

**Oracle Developer**
- Must have at least 4 years work related experience
- Must have experience in Oracle Development using PL/SQL, Oracle Developer and Oracle Discoverer tools
- Knowledge in customization of Oracle eBusiness Suite a plus

**Business Objects Developers**
- Must have at least 2 years project experience using Business Objects 5.x and Webi 2.x
- Must have solid experience in the area of Datawarehousing
- Adequate experience in web development using technologies such as HTML, ASP, XML and XSLT

**Oracle Database Administrator**
- Must have at least 3 years work related experience
- Knowledge and experience with Oracle versions 8i, 9i and 10g
- Substantial experience of SQL, Advanced SQL, PL/SQL and application development and datawarehousing
- Has experience in data conversion, performance tuning and configuration management. Knowledge and experience in application development using Oracle Developer tools preferred

**SAP Consultants**
- Must have at least 3 years experience in either of the SAP modules (PP/MM/SD/FICO/HR/PM/BW)
- Must have experience in configuration, implementation, and support
- Preferably with full cycle implementation experience

**User Interfacing Engineer**
- Must have at least 3 years experience in Web Development
- Must also have experience in Graphic Design, ASP.Net and SSL

**QA/Test Analysts**
- Must have at least 3-5 years experience in software testing/quality assurance using automated tools preferably Mercury Interactive tools

**Datawarehousing Resources**
- Must have at least 2 years work related experience in Informatica, ETL, OLAP, OWP and Business Objects
- Should have been involved in at least 1 Datawarehousing project

**CPA**
- Must have at least 4-5 years accounting experience
- Experience in Business Analysis is a plus
- Male
- should be highly anlytical and can work with minimum supervision
- Familiarity with ERP software is a plus

**Cobol Programmers**
- Must have at least 5 years experience in mainframe environment
- Preferably with background in the Pharmaceutical/Healthcare and Insurance industries and in CMMI, ISO and Application Integration Methodology

**Project Manager**
- Must have at least 5 years experience in IT Application Package Deployment/ Application Development and Project Management

**QA Manager**
- Must have 10 years experience in IT Industry and with at least 5 years strong QA testing experience and 3 years Team Lead/QA Management/Project Management experience
- Preferably with automated testing experience

**ABAP Programmers**
- Must have at least 2 years experience in ABAP programming
- Experience in Code Inspector is an advantage

**Oracle Manufacturing Consultants**
- Must have 2-3 years professional experience in Oracle EBSSE and/or Enterprise projects locally or overseas
- Preferably with knowledge on Oracle Forms and Reports

**Oracle Financial Consultants**
- Must have 2-3 years professional experience in Oracle EBSSE and/or Enterprise projects locally or overseas
- Preferably with knowledge on Oracle Forms and Reports and with working experience on projects with Oracle, SQL server backend and DB2

**System Administrator**
- Must have at least 4 years work related experience
- Has experience in network configuration and administration and skilled in PCs, servers, peripheral installation and maintenance

**Business Analysts/System Analysts**
- Must have at least 3-5 years work experience in a non-life insurance business, consulting environment, banking/finance or related industries
- Preferably with knowledge and experience in VB and UML

**E-Learning Developers**
- Preferably fresh graduates of Information Technology, Instructional System Design, Multimedia and Computer Science

**Technical Writers**
- With at least a year experience in professional and technical writing
- Software programming experience is a plus

**Web Designer**
- Must have at least 5 years relevant professional experience doing Web Designing

**Siebel Configurators**
- Must have at least 2-3 years experience
- Knowledge and experience in JavaScript, Unix, and a good understanding of Database Tables and Structures will be an advantage

**Arabic Translators**
- Must know how to translate Arabic to English and vice versa
- With good communication skills
- Must have high client interfacing skill

**Candidates must have a Bachelor's Degree**

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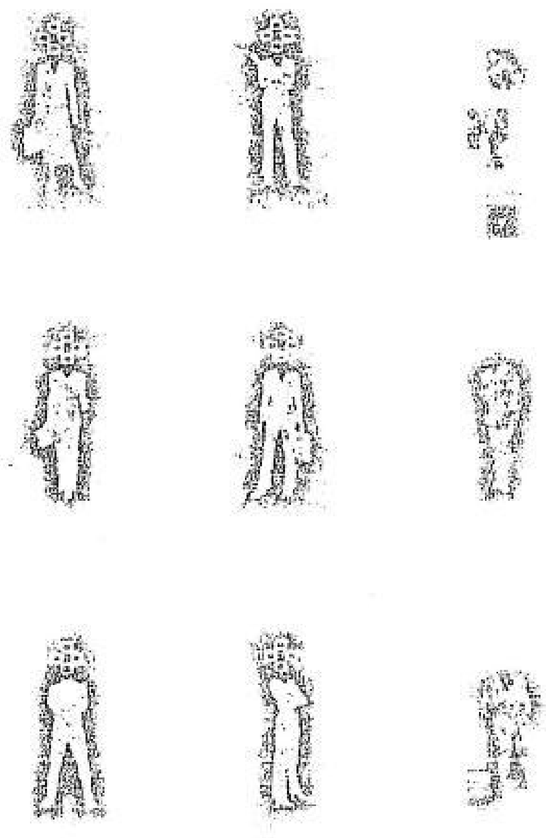
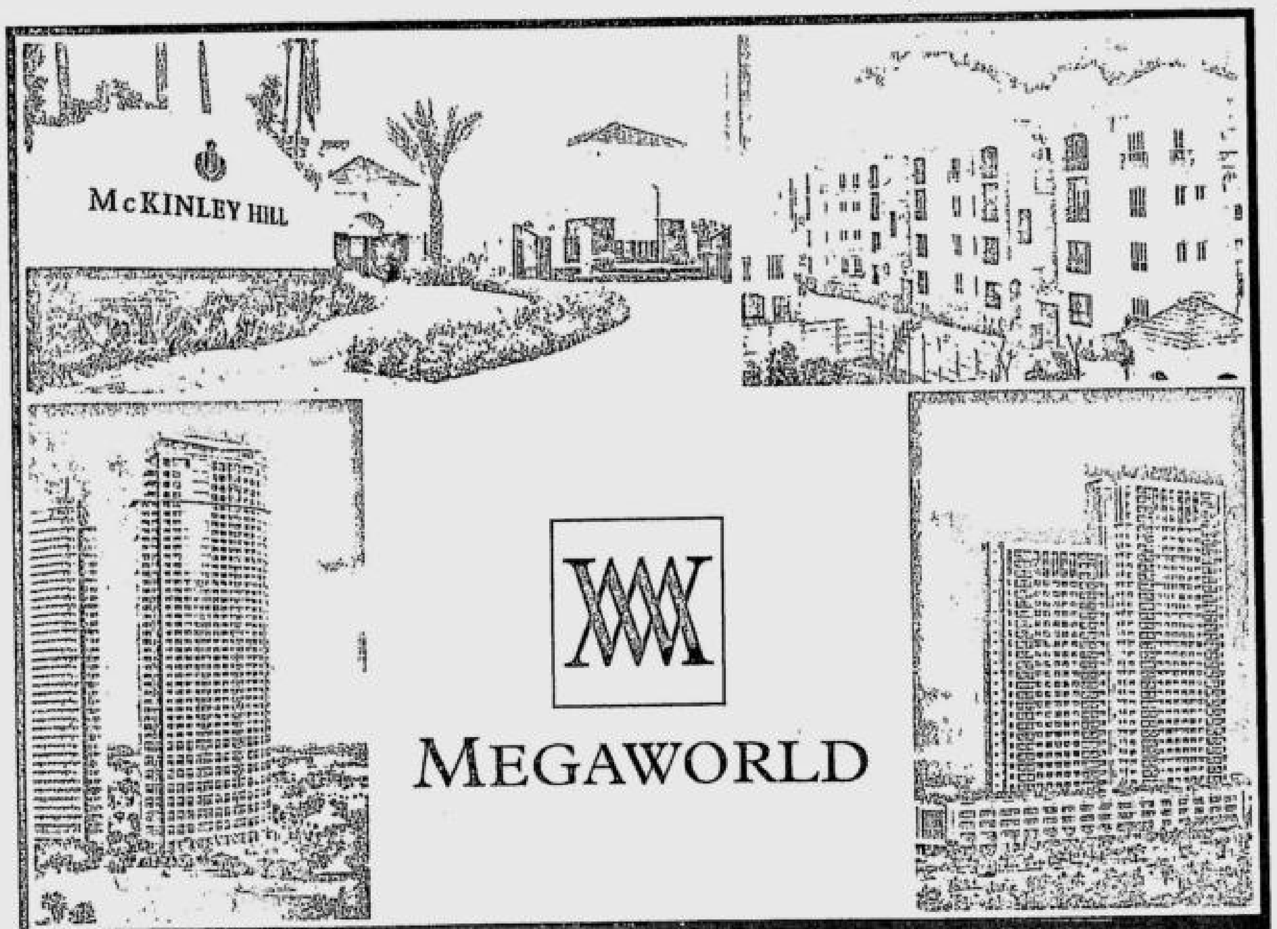


Interested candidates can send their comprehensive resumes to:

Recruitment
15/F Export Bank Plaza
Sen. Gil Puyat & Chino Roces Aves.
Makati City, Metro Manila

Or email to recruitment@headstrong.com
Or visit our website at http://www.headstrong.com



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---

**PRISM** The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Health (PRISM) Project

## (2) FIELD IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATORS

- **Code 001: FIC – Pangasinan**
- **Code 002: FIC – ARMM**

**Background:**

The PRISM Project is geared towards increasing FP/MCH initiatives in the private sector. It supports USAID/ Philippines' Strategic objective 3, *desired family size and improved health sustainability achieved.* The project will focus on three components: (1) increased workplace support for family planning (FP) services and referrals; (2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives; and, (3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

The project understands that a geographic approach using the strategic intervention plan (SIP) and its criteria will be essential in fast tracking its deliverables while prioritizing its areas and personnel to maximize its efforts and gains. Area-based planning and implementation is further seen as key to understanding the dynamics of the institutions and stakeholders in the identified areas. This is seen to lead to better results-based and output-oriented activities in aid of responsive project implementation. This is turn will purposively achieve our project goals and objectives.

To achieve this, we will be engaging Field Implementation Coordinators in the identified Strategic Intervention Areas (SIA).

**Objectives**

The FI Coordinator will be in-charge of harnessing the potential for installing a private sector initiative for family planning in the strategic intervention area. He/she will concentrate on coming up with plans and activities as how family planning can be integrated in the workplace, thereby creating a demand. Then, through the development of the market (for oral and injectable contraceptives) as well as encouraging the private sector service providers, especially the midwives – become part of the supply that will service the generated demand. While doing this, he/she must be cognizant of and coordinate with the different PRISM components and harmonize the activities so that it will help achieve project deliverables.

**General Tasks**

☑ Develop an overall PRISM strategic intervention area work plan together with the three component directors and the technical director;
☑ Initiate, organize and integrate activities of the three components namely, Workplace, Market Development, and Private Practice in support of the overall area plans and objectives;
☑ Work with the different PRISM technical specialists on gender, monitoring and evaluation, outreach, training and quality assurance to ensure adequate support to our partners;
☑ Work with PRISM technical and management staff to implement approaches and strategies to counteract potential opposition to project activities from social forces such as faith-based groups;
☑ Refine the strategies mapped out in the work plan in order to maximize results from them; coordinate with the monitoring and evaluation specialist to validate indicators of success for the area program;
☑ Submit monthly updates/regular reports on activities, agreements and issues relating to the individual components as well as relating to the program as a whole (integrated/cross-cutting), including a monthly calendar of upcoming activities;
☑ Following the PRISM "work through" principle, help identify and assist potential project partners in their application for PRISM grants and in the implementation of the same;
☑ Liase with relevant business, professional and civic organizations, private sector FP providers, USAID Cooperating Agencies, and local government units (LGUs) to forge partnerships for family planning initiatives;
☑ Coordinate regularly with our private and public sector liaison officers to aid support activities and initiatives to these sectors accordingly; and,
☑ Complete other tasks and assignments, as deemed appropriate.

**Qualifications:**

- The ideal candidate must be residents of the province of Pangasinan / Mindanao region, with strong health project background/experience gained from private and/or public sector environment.
- College graduate
- Minimum of 3 years experience in liaising and dealing with the business sector, specifically with HR Managers, CEO of companies, healthcare organizations and service providers (doctor's groups, drugstores, midwives, nurses, etc.)
- Previous project management experience is an advantage
- Proficient in MS applications specifically Outlook, PowerPoint, Word, and Excel
- Excellent technical report writing and verbal communication skills
- Excellent organizational and analytical skills
- Excellent people skill

**Reporting:**

The Field Implementation Coordinator (FIC) will report directly to the Regional Manager, who will have direct supervision, monitoring and accountability over his/her performance.

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV to jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 25 May 2007. Please indicate the **Position Code and Location** as subject.

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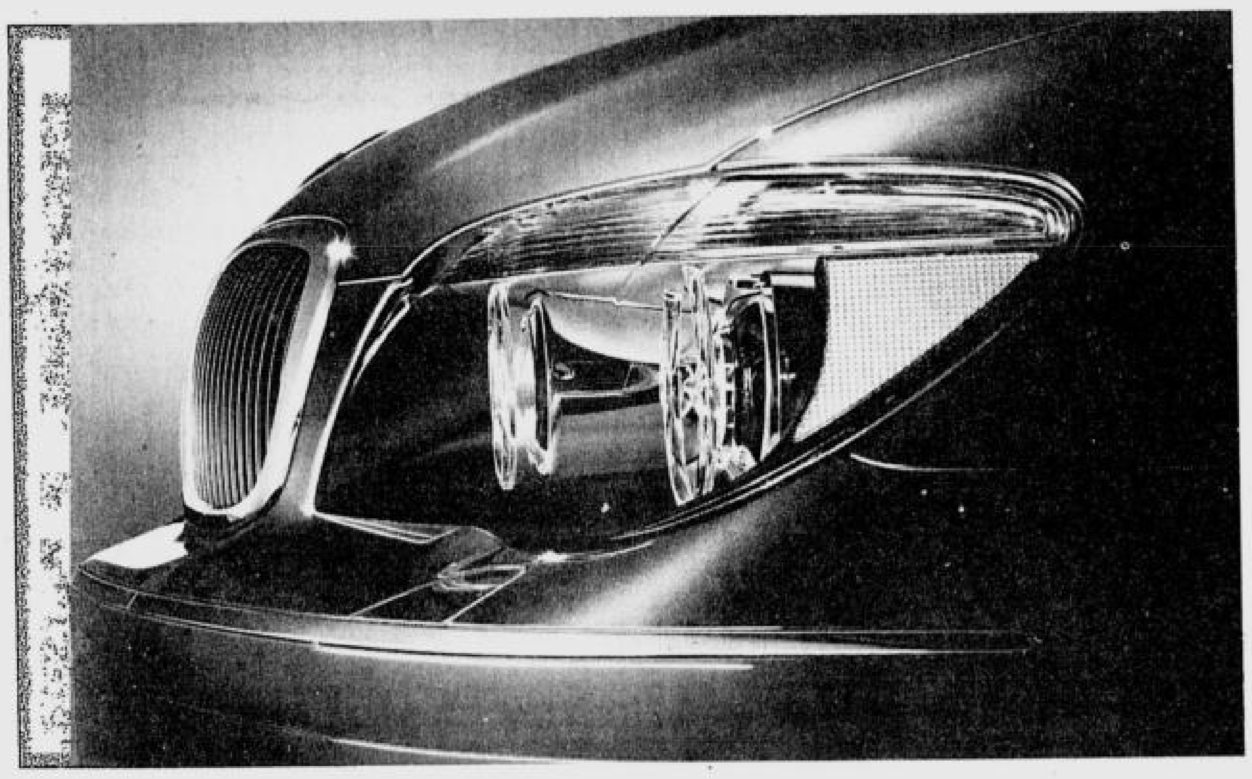

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Interested applicants may send their resume to hrd@autohausbmw.com.ph or apply in person to:

The Human Resources Department
**Autohaus BMW**
184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 638 0734 loc. 120

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# NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

**by a Multinational Company**

## MECHANIC

1. Preferably Mechanical Engineering Graduate (Licensed)
2. With background in Mechanical works (OJT experienced / Trade certificates)
3. Computer Literate (Excel / Word)

## CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

1. At least 5 years experience, 3 years in a reputable auditing firm
2. Not more than 30 years old
3. Single, hardworking, willing to work flexible hours

Please send application to:

gjalapan@bjservices.com.sg

Or

**Human Resources Department**
**Room 302 Dowjones Bldg., Km. 19 West Service Road**
**South Superhighway, Sucat, Parañaque City**
**Fax No.: 824-4211**

---

**Sacred Heart Academy Pasig**
email: *shap.edu@gmail.com*

*We are in need of the following:*

**Pre-School, Elementary and Secondary TEACHERS**
- Preferably a graduate of BSEED or BSE
- Preferably a LET Passer or with M.A. units
- Excellent oral and written English

**GUIDANCE COUNSELOR & LIBRARIAN**
- Preferably BS Psychology Graduate
- Preferably a graduate of Library Science

**ACADEMIC COORDINATOR**
- Holder in masters Degree in Educational Management or Administration
- At least three years experience in supervisory work

*Interested applicants are requested to submit the following*
- ✓ Letter of Intent, Resume with 2x2 photo
- ✓ Transcript of Records
- ✓ At least 3 Professional References

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
M. Suarez Ave., Maybunga, Pasig City
☎ 641-2369 / 641-2264

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## IMMEDIATE HIRING

- OPERATIONS MANAGER
- MARKETING MANAGER
- PRODUCT MANAGER

** At least 5 years working experience with extensive knowledge in electronic gadgets & handling people (for all managerial position)*

- EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

** FEMALE 20-30 yrs old, Fluent in Mandarin/Fookien, English & Filipino (both oral and written communication)*

- STORE SUPERVISOR
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- RECEPTIONIST
- SALES CLERK

HUG Always You

*Interested applicants may apply at:*
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Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel. No. 887-7888 Fax No.: 887-7880
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- Licensed Nurse
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- To be assigned in Makati

Interested applicants are requested to reply via email to:

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**
Email Add: tscabantog@mightycorp.com.ph
Tel. No. 741-5920 / (044) 794-2788 to 89
Look for Ms. Tracy Cabantog

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Real Estate Company is looking for the following:

**Marketing Manager** (Real Estate)

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College Graduate and Licensed Real Estate broker is required • Has a solid background in selling real estate properties • Active in real estate organization and has a wide network/ connection with brokers and agents (preferably Northern Area/ Bulacan) • Competitive in making Marketing Plans and strategies for brokers and agent that would boost the sales of the company • Recruit and assist brokers and in-house agents in selling properties

Please send your resumé at:
P.O. Box 2656 Quezon City Central Post Office
or philville@philville.net

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Operations Director
Training Director
Senior Operations Manager
Operations Managers
Workforce Planning Manager
Client Services Manager
Reports Manager
Quality Assurance Manager
Asst. Operations Manager
Operations Supervisors

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Manager Desktop Admin
Desktop Administrator
Associate Systems Administrator
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## Young Global Professional

### Never Too Young To Be Totally Made.

### Mary Gil, 23, Has 10 Mouths To Feed. Cinch To a Yogo.

**Gille used to strut her stuff on the catwalk.** Lips part and pout. Turn. Pirouette. Camera flash flicker. Been there. Done that.

Today, Gille has moved on from the catwalk **to the corridors of ICT.** She's a Yogo. **And she has 10 mouths to feed. More, actually.** There's the family, **2** labs, **3 beagles, 4 poodles. And a cranky, old pug.**

### Melissa, 23, And Her Two-Storey Yogo Tale

This is **Melissa.** Friends and family call her Leng. She describes herself as a typical ... surprise, surprise ... homebody. But **what most people don't know is, she pays** for her own **den,** plus all the interior styling that went into pimping her crib. 100% solo.

Today, over 3,000 other Yogos share Leng's can-do attitude, **her zen-like approach to work, and her passion** for the occasional spa-pampering.

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**e-mail resumes to:**
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14th Floor Union Bank Plaza,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

**Makati**
18th Floor Tower 2, RCBC Plaza,
6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City

**Marikina**
Ground Floor ICT Bldg 1,
Riverbanks Centre, Marikina

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please bring your SSS number,
TIN number and NBI clearance.

ICT Be a YOGO

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Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) - Scholarships is a component of the Australian Government's A$1.4 billion Australian Scholarships initiative, providing around 19,000 scholarships to the Asia-Pacific region over five years.

ALA Scholarships are directed to individuals who have the potential to assume leadership roles that can influence social and economic policy reform and development outcomes in their home countries and the region.

ALA Scholarships allow high achievers to undertake postgraduate study in Australia at masters or doctoral level. Scholars also participate in a unique Leadership Development Program.

Managed by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), ALA Scholarships undergo a highly competitive selection process and are open to citizens of Asia-Pacific countries where Australia has an active aid program.

Applications will open on **1 May 2007** for study commencing in January 2008. Deadline for paper applications is **16 July 2007**; online applications close on **31 July 2007**.

While applications are open to all fields of study, we encourage applications in the field of international trade, pandemics, security and climate change (including clean energy).

Applicants should have a record of high-level undergraduate or postgraduate academic achievement and advanced English language ability.

Note: Applicants must provide an unconditional offer of a place at a participating Australian University with their ALA-Scholarship application. The offer should be for full-time studies commencing in Australia in 2008.

Further information can be obtained from the website addresses provided below.

For a list of participating Australian Universities, go to
**www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/ala_institutions.cfm**
For more information and to apply for an award, go to
**www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/ala.cfm**
For general information on other Australian Scholarships, go to
**www.australianscholarships.gov.au**

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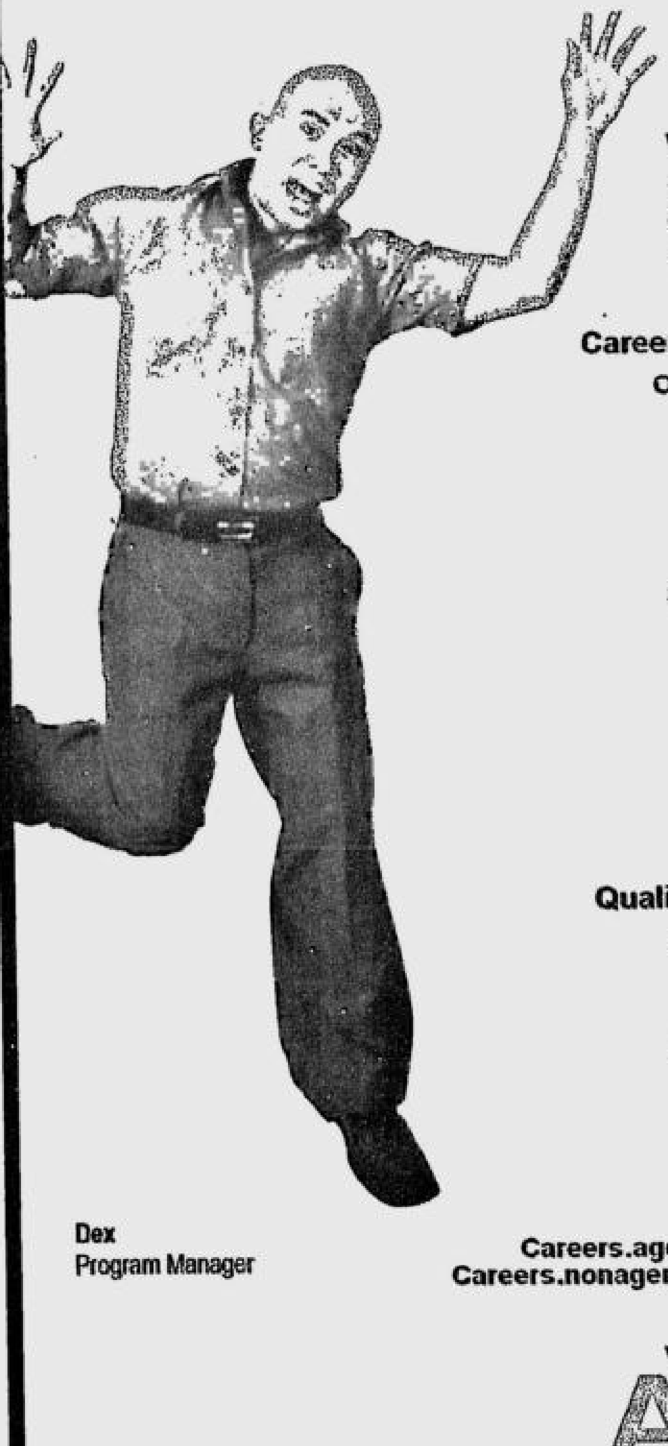

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| Real Time Analysts | (2) |

**Qualifications:**

**For Operations:**
- At least 6 months call center experience handling international accounts

**For Support:**
- At least 1 year of experience in the same capacity

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- At least College Level, preferably with background in Marketing, Sales or any Business course
- Highly motivated, a team player, with good communication, negotiation and presentation skills, thrives under pressure and can work with minimal supervision
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and do field work
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Corporate Sales/Advertising/Publication.

**We also have openings for the following positions:**

### Treasury Analyst

- College graduate preferably with Accounting background.
- At least 1 year Banking/Finance and/or Treasury experience.
- Computer literate, organized, methodical and detail-oriented.
- Good interpersonal, communication, office management and analytical skills.

### Credit and Collection Assistant

- College graduate preferably with Accounting background
- At least 6 months experience in a similar job
- Computer literate and organized
- Good interpersonal, communication, office management, filing and negotiation skills.

### Creative Director

- College Graduate of a 4-year Communications course (or related degree)
- Preferably has at least 5 years experience in magazine publishing
- Equipped with exceptional designing skills
- Organized, resourceful, and creative
- Able to supervise, and influence the creative department; willing to work overtime

### Events and Marketing Coordinator

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Communication Arts/ Advertising & Marketing, or equivalent.
- Highly motivated, a team player
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Can work with minimal supervision and thrives under pressure
- Preferably 1-2 yrs experience specializing in events management or equivalent
- Willing to work in Makati City and do field work

hinge inquirer

Interested applicants may send their resumés to any of the ff: spanlilio@inquirer.com.ph, jreyes@inquirerpublications.ph, hrd@hip.ph or bring their resumé, two (2) 2x2 photos, Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. to our office at Unit 330, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Tel Nos.: 759-2284, 759-2024, 840-0196, 813-6848

---

ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE

## VACANCIES (DURATION 6 MONTHS)
## BASE ADMINISTRATOR, LOGISTICIAN AND 3 AGRICULTURAL FIELD OFFICER

**Open for Residents of Sorsogon Province only**

AECI

ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE (ACH) is a Spanish humanitarian, non-governmental (NGO), non-religious, non-political and non-profit making organization. ACH has been providing assistance to vulnerable populations in the Philippines since 2000 in food security, water and sanitation, health and nutrition. ACH will implement a Project funded by the Spanish Cooperation (AECI) for the "Rehabilitation of the production capacities of farmers severely affected by Typhoons" in Sorsogon Province, BICOL Region and is looking for a Base Administrator, a Logistician and 3 Agricultural Field Officers.

**A) Base Administrator position's objective:**
Responsible for accounting, budget, financial, administrative and human resources functions of the project in Sorsogon base.

**Requirements**

- Degree in Accountancy or Business Administration or similar, preferably a CPA.
- At least 2 years of experience in similar position acquired within an international firm or NGO with a multi-cultural environment.
- Excellent communication skills in English and Filipino, both oral and written.
- High level of computer literacy (Word, Excel), knowledge of accounting software an advantage.
- Ability to work independently, integrated in a team and under pressure.
- Experience in human resources management.
- Skills in representation.

**B) Agricultural field officer position's objective**
To implement and monitor the Project activities in the field.

**Requirements**

- Graduate in Agricultural Extension or related fields.
- Previous experience in Agricultural Rehabilitation project with input distributions.
- Previous experience in NGO is an asset.
- Report editing capacity
- Experience in Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and monitoring.
- Skills in planning, organization and communication.
- Good knowledge of the province of Sorsogon Province.
- Fluency in English, Tagalog and Bicolano.
- Used to work with rural communities and farmers groups
- Possess a Motorbike driving license

**C) Logistician position's objective**
Responsible for the daily logistic base operations.

**Requirements**

- At least 2 years of professional experience in logistics work (purchase, storage, transport, reception...)
- Fluency in English, Tagalog and Bicolano
- Good diplomatic, communication, and organisational skills.
- Excellent team player. Able to work under stressful circumstances.
- Flexibility to adapt to fast changing conditions
- Diligence and honesty
- Computer literate (Excel and Word)
- Report editing capacity
- Good Knowledge of the areas of Sorsogon Province.
- Possess a driving license
- Knowledge of MOSS is an asset

**Deadline for applications**

May 14th, 2007

An application letter stating the position you apply for, your motivation and your current salary, detailed curriculum vitae, including daytime telephone contact number and copies of university diploma, and professional references should be sent to:

**Human Resources Coordinator**
**Accion Contra el Hambre**
**12 Zipper,**
**San Lorenzo Village,**
**Makati City**
**susana_achmanila@yahoo.com**
**(02) 817-5299**

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christian aid
Philippine Field Office

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION OFFICER

Christian Aid (CA) is an agency of the churches in the UK and Ireland working in development and disaster response. We seek to employ a FULL-TIME DISASTER RISK REDUCTION OFFICER to oversee the implementation of the BUILDING DISASTER RESILIENT COMMUNITIES (BDRC) programme. The post will be based in the CA Office in Quezon City with regular travel to partners and project sites.

BDRC aims to reduce the vulnerability of communities across Southern Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and Central America to shocks and crises resulting from natural or man-made disasters. The programme will support CA's local partners in building communities' capacities to protect themselves from disaster, to mitigate its impact, and to reduce future vulnerabilities of its poorest members.

**The post holder will:**

1. Provide direct technical support to the partners and ensure that activities are implemented according to the goal and objectives, log frame and workplan.
2. Ensure quality record-keeping, documentation and reporting to DFID.
3. Be responsible for capacity building among partners and networks and ensuring implementation and reporting is in accordance with donor guidelines
4. Act as the programme's point of contact in the country
5. Take the lead in CA's DRR programme in the Philippines

**We are looking for a person who has**

- At least three years experience in development or humanitarian work
- Experience in capacity-building with local partner organisations
- Experience in disaster, post-disaster or DRR programme management
- Practical experience in multi-partner project management, ideally in the field of development or disaster risk reduction
- Knowledge of issues relating to livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, mitigation and preparedness, sustainable development
- Knowledge of the socio-political and environmental context in the Philippines
- Experience in advocacy
- Experience in programme/project development and fundraising

**Contract Terms.** We offer a One (1) Year contract with possibility for extension and an attractive salary and benefits package.

Interested applicants will please submit an application letter, curriculum vitae detailing disaster work experience, at least 2 references from previous employer with complete contact details. Please send applications to:

The Office Manager
Christian Aid-Philippine Field Office
29 Mabuhay St., Bgy. Central, Quezon City 1100

Or email to zterrado@caidasia.org

Detailed Job Description may also be requested from the above email address.
Deadline for applications is on 11 May 2007

---

## TECHNICAL AND SALES OFFICER

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- FEMALE
- MECHANICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATE
- AT LEAST 1 YEAR EXPERIENCE IN INDUSTRIAL FIELD
- FLUENT IN ENGLISH (BOTH ORAL & WRITTEN)
- DEDICATED, HARDWORKING AND WILLING TO TRAVEL
- PLEASANT PERSONALITY
- ABLE TO START WORK BY JUNE 2007
- PLEASE INCLUDE EXPECTED MONTHLY SALARY
- PREFERABLY WITH VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

EMAIL YOUR RESUMÉ WITH PICTURE TO:
**admin@irs-philippines.com**

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## SYNTECH PROPERTIES INC.

We are a real estate property developer based in Cebu City. We are urgently looking for suitably qualified candidates for the positions of:

### (1) ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Male or Female, 30 - 40 years old
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science - Major in Accounting & a Certified Public Accountant
- With minimum 5 years Accounting & Audit work experience in supervisory and/or managerial position
- Must be well-versed with the latest Philippine Accounting Standards and Philippine Tax Laws & Regulations relating to real estate
- Must possess good analytical and communication skills and able to interact well with people at all levels
- Able to handle workload under pressure

### (2) SENIOR / ACCOUNTING OFFICER

- Male or Female, 28 - 35 years old
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science Major in Accounting
- 5 years work experience in accounting and audit
- Knowledgeable in Philippines tax laws and rulings
- Must possess good communication skills and able to interact well with people at different levels
- Has the ability to handle work under pressure and work with minimum supervision

INTERESTED APPLICANTS PLEASE WRITE-IN OR E-MAIL YOUR DETAILED RESUME WITH A RECENT PHOTO, STATING PRESENT AND EXPECTED SALARY BY 21 MAY 2007 TO:

HR DEPARTMENT
SYNTECH PROPERTIES, INC.
CITYLIGHTS GARDENS – SALES OFFICE
VETERANS DRIVE, NIVEL HILLS, APAS
CEBU CITY 6000, PHILIPPINES
E-MAIL: belnebria@syntech-phil.com

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**ESTIMATORS (Civil & Electrical)**
**OFFICE ENGINEERS (Civil)**

- Licensed Engineers
- Not more than 45 years old
- With at least 3 solid years of experience in civil and architectural works
- Proficient in both oral and written English language
- Computer literate

**HRD MANAGER**
**PURCHASING ASSISTANT**

- With background in construction materials procurement

**EQUIPMENT SUPERVISOR**

- With background in light equipment management

**MATERIALS COMPTROLLER**

- With warehousing, forecasting & inventory skills

**IT SUPERVISOR**
**ACADD OPERATORS**

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Tel. No. 927-8406 look for Gerald Decena
or Robert Belleza

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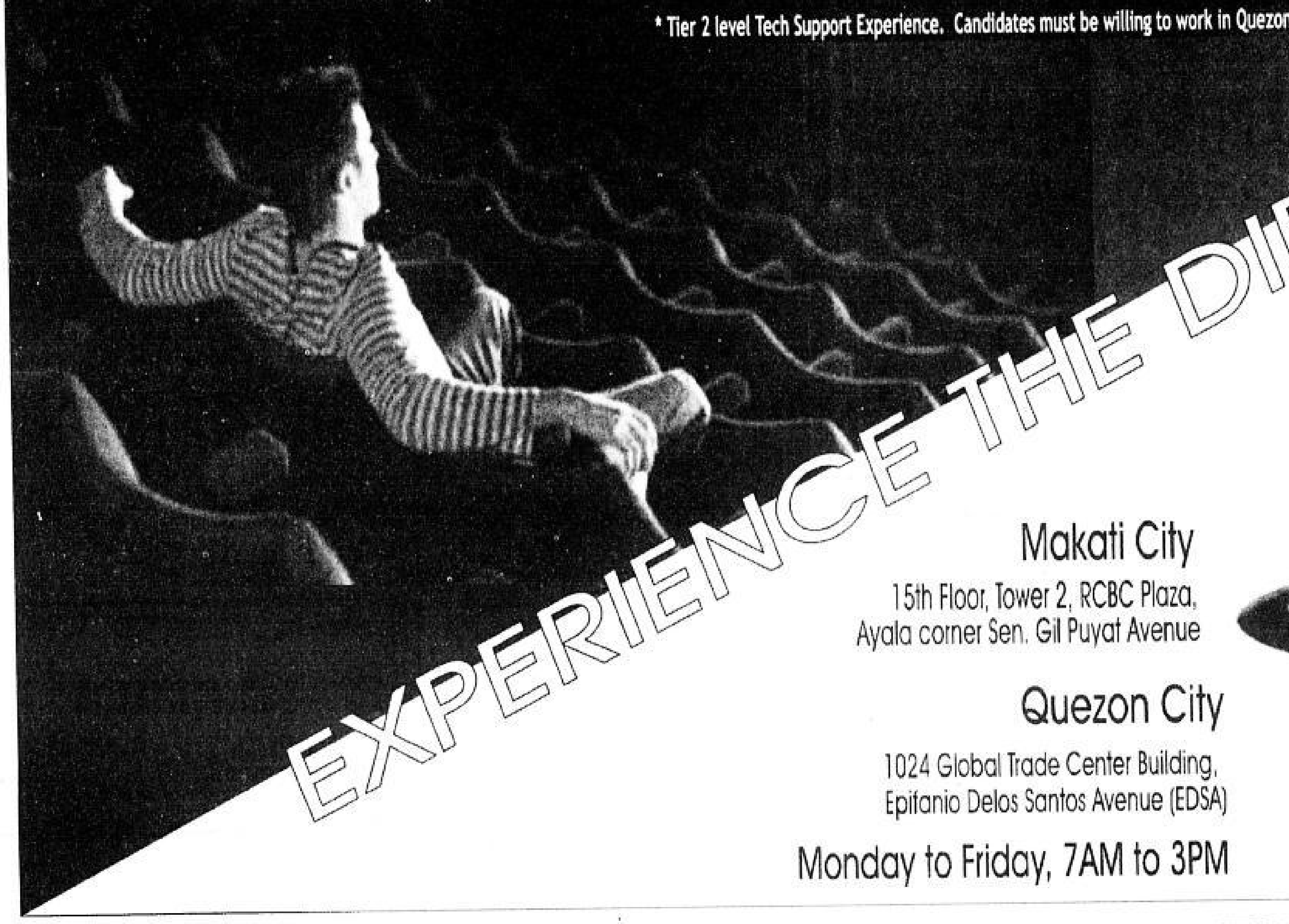

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## Commercial Manager

(NCR-Pasig City)

**Qualifications**
- CPA
- Minimum of 5 years work experience in a reputable auditing firm

**Skills**
- Proficient in project/financial modeling and Microsoft products
- Solid background in financial accounting and taxation
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Exceptional organizational skills with ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously
- Team player with excellent interpersonal skills
- Self-motivated and detail-oriented

**Responsibilities :**
- Business planning and forecasting
- Asset management
- Contracts management and negotiations
- Shareholders' and lenders' relationship
- Management and/or negotiation of other major contracts
- Travel required

*The successful candidate shall receive a salary commensurate to his or her experience and will have opportunities for career growth and training.*

**Please send a comprehensive resumé detailing work experience and educational attainment to:**

**THE HR Department**
**Email address: rgorayeb@intergen.com**

---

## BULACAN AREA

### WAREHOUSE CHECKERS

- College graduate of any 4-year course
- Male, ages between 23-35 years old
- At least 5'4" in height
- Hardworking, detail oriented
- Willing to work long hours and shifting
- Involves working outdoors

### MACHINE SHOP SUPERVISORS

- Graduate of BS Mechanical Engineering
- Male, at least 28 years old
- With 2 years experience as Machining Supervisor or any related supervisor position
- Knowledge in AUTOCAD is required
- Knowledge in CNC is an advantage
- Willing to work long hours and shifting

Mail your comprehensive Bio-data with updated phone number and contact address to:

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QUEZON CITY
email: kirsten@pldtdsl.net

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**71-B C. Jose St. Malibay, Pasay City.**

---

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- 22 to 32 years old, with pleasing personality

Interested applicants are requested to submit personally their comprehensive resumés with transcript of records and recent 2x2 picture in the morning only (9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) of May 7 & 8 or May 10 & 11, 2007 at:

**SM Corporate Offices, Building A,**
**1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Bay City, Pasay**

(fresh graduates are also welcome to apply)

# JOBMARKET*updates*

Text us your feedback: inquirer WP name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph.

## DOLE eyes special desks to provide facilitation services to fresh graduates

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND Employment (DOLE) shall set up special facilitation desks to assist new graduates in their search jobs and other employment-related services.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that he has directed the DOLE's 15 regions to begin assigning personnel who shall man the special desks and provide the necessary services to new graduates.

He said that the special desks would guide the graduates in their search for vacant jobs to facilitate their placement in industry.

The desks are envisioned to refer the graduates to establishments where there are suitable vacancies. The graduates shall also be provided access to labor market information on available job opportunities and employers in need of workers.

Graduates opting to enhance their employability or start livelihood projects shall also be provided counseling and assistance on skills training and livelihood programs.

At the same time, Brion said that the DOLE is gearing up to improve the voluntary arbitration system under the Labor Code by designating special voluntary arbitrators from the DOLE who shall supplement the voluntary arbitration services now provided by private sector arbitrators.

Voluntary arbitration shall be provided free of charge in contrast with the arbitration-for-a-fee now prevailing under the current system.

*"Lumalabas sa karanasan natin na kaya bantulot ang mga manggagawa at namumuhunan na pumunta sa voluntary arbitration ay dahil sa gastos"*, Brion said.

## Emotional freedom technique workshops set

DA SEEKERS COVE, A TRAINING AND counseling center, will conduct two-day workshops on Emotional Freedom Technique, an energy healing method on May 20 and 27, 10 am-5 pm at Da Seekers Cove, 3rd level, Treasure Trove, Festival Supermall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

R. Kevin Plata, Master EFT Practitioner and first Filipino and Asian to be admitted to the Association for the Advancement of Meridian Energy Therapies (AAMET), will conduct the workshops. He said that EFT is based on the ancient principles of acupuncture, except that there are no needles. Internationally introduced in 1995, it has gained wide adherents who testify to its efficacy.

Plata explained that, properly applied, EFT disconnects the memory of the physical effects attached to negative emotional experiences and restores the flow of energy. Plata has solved over 200 cases of psychological trauma, phobia elimination, physical pain reduction and children learning disabilities.

As a prelude to the two-day workshops, the public is invited to attend free EFT orientation and demonstrations at outlets of Da Seekers Cove: every Tuesday, 6pm-7pm, Treasure Trove, 3rd Floor, Festival Supermall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Contact number 0928-6682398; every Wednesday, 6pm-7pm, 4th Level, Robinsons Galleria, EDSA corner Ortigas Ave. Quezon City. Da Seekers Cove which also offers services in Tarot reading, dream insights and counseling may be contacted at (02)637-1286, 09275675411.

## PMAP's first technology-driven job fair

THE PEOPLE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION of the Philippines (PMAP) through its Corporate Social Responsibility Committee shall launch PMAP's first paperless job fair in the country on May 31 to June 1 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. PMAP has always been known in spearheading a strong advocacy in the promotion of employment for every Filipino, having members holding various important positions in all levels in a wide range of industries, from finance, retail, marketing, BPOs, to IT. PMAP in partnership with JobsDB shall allow the organization to adopt to the 21st century style of promoting career opportunities to the thousand job seekers. It shall unveil the latest innovation of having state-of-the-art application for employment through the use of PMAP's Career Card.

Participating recruiting companies will be provided with a scanner similar to the barcode device used in different business establishments. A jobseeker simply submits the Career Card to the hiring company's representative who will then scan the bar code of the career card. The career card is a benchmark in the recruitment industry because it saves jobseekers transportation, printing, and postage costs.

## Managing labor relations crises

GOOD CRISIS PLANNING IN ANY FIRM OR ESTABLISHMENT is healthy for the business.

Being prepared for labor relations crises that may arise – from tensions on relations with union, major business decisions, or consolidations, mergers and acquisitions – is the smart thing to do than just wait for the inevitable crises to happen. Indeed, it is a strategic move for firms to take a proactive stance so as to keep out of trouble and continue doing business.

Through a whole-day seminar which the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) is conducting on May 9, IR and HR practitioners will acquire competencies on handling labor relations crises and designing a suitable communication plan/program. The seminar will be held at the ECOP Boardroom, ECC Bldg., Makati City.

The seminar is about stakeholder management, scenario development, message development, crisis simulations, response planning and much more. To inquire or register, please call the ECOP Training and Development Department at 0906-5552995, 890-4845, 890-4847 or 899-0411.

## Tax amnesty for you and your business

THIS COULD BE YOUR MAJOR BREAK! TAKE advantage of the Tax Amnesty law recently signed by the house and senate.

Don't miss this very special seminar which could give you the biggest savings in your business. Be there on May 29, 1:30–5:30 pm at Holiday Inn Galleria.

A special highlight of the seminar is the Free Tax Clinic—Consult your case for free.

For more information, please call Powermax Consulting Group at 687-9014 or 396-1789. Look for Rax. Call us now to reserve your seat.

## ITD world-class training on emotional excellence

DR. LEONARD YONG, THE AUTHOR AND inventor of the Leonard Personality Inventory (LPI) Profiling Tool, will be in Manila this May 28 and 29 for the Institute of Training and Development (ITD)'s Master World-Class Training on "Winning with Emotional Excellence: The Heart of a High EQ Organization."

Attend and be transformed! The ITD-Master World-Class Training will be held at the Mandarin Oriental Manila's Grand Ballroom on May 28-29. Register now and avail of super early bird rates. For details, call ITD Consulting at 887-7428 or email itdmanila@itd.com.my. You can also visit our website at www.itd.com.my.

**WE ARE IN NEED OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO FILL UP REQUIREMENTS OF LEADING RESTAURANT/ DOUGHNUT N' COFFEE SHOP LOCATED IN GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, M.M.**

**Production/ Processing Specialist/Stock Clerk/ Retail Specialist/Cashier/Barista/ Assembler/ Dining Specialist**
- 18-25 yrs. Old. College level.
- With experience in fast food or Coffee shop operation.
- Excellent communication skills required.
- With good customer relations skills.
- Pleasing personality.

**Encoders (to be assigned at the commissary located in Taguig)**
- 18-30 yrs.old, with computer related course
- Good command in oral and written English language
- Grammatically proficient

**Drivers ( to be assigned at the commissary located in Taguig)**
- 26-40 yrs. Old, must have professional drivers license
- With atleast 3 to 5 years experience in driving a utility van.

*Encoders and Drivers preferably residents of Taguig, Parañaque, Sucat or Bicutan

All interested applicants may submit their resume, NBI or Police Clearance & 2 x 2 picture at:
FUTURE PLUS MPC Office at 5th flr.
EU State Tower # 30 Quezon Ave.Q.C.
Or call us at 742-80-43 / 742-74-13 Look for Ms. Angel or Ms. Michelle.
Monday thru Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturdays 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
email: mtlbriones@gmail.com

**Phil English**

Our school is expanding! We are currently in need of qualified and dedicated teachers to teach Mathematics, Science and English to Korean students.

Requirements.
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- Required skill(s): ability to engage and motivate students
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills.
- Applicants must be willing to work in San Juan M.M.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.
- Full-Time and Part-Time positions available.

Interested applicants can send their resume to philenglish114@yahoo.com or drop by PhilEnglish, Inc. office at Unit 2103 Atlanta Centre Bldg. Annapolis St. Greenhills, San Juan, M. Manila.

For further information, please call 726-9308/ 744-3390 look for Ms. Anna Sumayod.

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rd.tuazon@yahoo.com

WANTED
**PARALEGAL DATA ENCODER**
21-30 years old, M/F, computer literate
Apply in person at:
Unit 917, Cityland Megaplaza Condominium, ADB Ave. cor. Garnet Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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* Founder of Tax Accountant Society; the National Organization of BIR-Accredited Tax Agents; Auditor ng Bayan; Founder of ETM Tax Agent Training Center; Author of 14 Accounting and Auditing Books

* Reduced from Php89 Million to Php18 Million BIR Tax Assessment for BIR Supply Oilfield Services; Averted BIR Tax assessment of Php500 Million for JD Legaspi Corporation; Assisted Wyeth Philippines Corporation in obliging BIR Revenue Officers to amend Php 1Billion Tax Assessment

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**Assistant Field Operations Manager (1)**

Major responsibilities include achieving annual sales target for the region, supervising and working efficiently with internal and external parties (trade partners, distributors and medical community) to organize various components needed to initiate, run and conclude major business building projects, assist in implementing Marketing, Events, and Outreach interventions, actively participate in preparing and evaluating annual sales targets and business plan.

A graduate of any (4) year course preferably Business Management or Marketing. Previous management experience in consumer and/or ethical product marketing or sales is essential. Requires strong computer and Internet research skills; ability to work well in all levels of internal management staff; can very well adapt to a fast paced work environment; at least two (2) to three (3) years work experience in a supervisory level. Candidates must be a resident of any of the following areas: Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Manila. Applicants in Manila must be willing to re-locate. Visayan dialect is a plus but not necessarily a requirement.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their updated resume with current colored photo, transcript of records and employment certificates to :

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
DKT PHILIPPINES, Inc.
4th Floor, Millennium Place,
Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City
maica@frenzy.com.ph

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**FRONT DESK / RECEPTIONIST and EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**
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- Experienced and with good Communication Skills
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**MANDARIN / ENGLISH TRANSLATOR**
- Female
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Walk-in Interview: Monday – Wednesday (from 10:30am – 6pm)
606 AIC-Burgundy Empire Tower, ADB Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
Tel: +63 2 7061570 / 71

Our firm is a small, dynamic firm engaged in Architectural Design and Construction, where we have been involved as Designer and / or Builder of different architectural types and projects ranging from residential and interior design and renovation; storefront, restaurant or commercial design; office, factory and warehouse planning. We are currently opening up 3 slots for the position of:

**DESIGNER / DRAFTSMAN**
**ESTIMATOR**
**SITE SUPERVISOR**

*Requirements for Designer-Draftsman include:*
☐ A degree in BS Architecture; registered architects are a bonus
☐ 22 to 30 years old
☐ Proficient in AutoCadd, release 2000 and Windows
☐ Artistic, creative & hardworking
☐ Good or above average drawing or rendering skills
☐ Trustworthy and professional
☐ Experience in making complete working drawings / complete contract doc's.
☐ Able to bring samples of work for interview.

*Interested parties may send their resumés, bio-data and contact information to:*
**233 N. Domingo Street**
**San Juan, Metro Manila**
through email at: ibuild@tri-isys.com
or fax to: 744-2278

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**PARTS & SERVICE MANAGER**
- At least 30 to 40 years old, business or engineering course
- Work experience in similar capacity
- Hands-on manager, good management and inter-personal skills
- Computer literate

**AUDITORS (Male/Female)**
- At least 30 to 40 years old, accounting graduate, matured and trustworthy
- Work experience in an automotive or banking industry an advantage
- Computer literate

**HRD/ADMIN ASSISTANTS (Male/Female)**
- At least 25 to 35 years old, college graduate
- Background in HR & admin works
- Computer literate, smart and trustworthy

**SERVICE ADVISERS/PARTS SALESMAN/TECHNICIANS**
- At least 25 to 35 years old, college graduate or undergrad
- Good customer relations with work experience from an automotive industry

**INSURANCE COORDINATORS/ AGENTS/SALES CONSULTANTS (Male/Female)**
- At least 25 to 35 years old, college graduate/undergrad
- Work experience in similar capacity, assertive

Please apply in person with your resumé at:
**UNION MOTOR CORPORATION**
No. 1760 Dra. Paz Guazon Avenue,
Otis Paco, Manila
Tel. 339-1881 and 339-1882 (Telefax)
or 5638461 loc. 120/149
email: tcsd@union-motor.com.ph

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| • QS Engineer | ( 5 ) |
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| • Carpenter | (20) |
| • Electrician | (12) |
| • Plumbers | (18) |
| • HVAC | ( 8 ) |
| • Tile Setter | (10) |
| • Draughtsman | (10) |

Qualification: Male, 25-55 years old, must have 4 yrs or more related working experience.

**New Zealand, Utility & Airline Company**
- High Voltage Linemen (2,000usd) (3)
- Aircraft Engine Techs (3,000usd) (5)

Qualification: Male, 25-55 years old, must have 5 yrs or more related working experience. Aircraft tech certs for P&W, GE, RR.

**Oman, Reputable Hospital**
- Doctors (5,000usd) (5)
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### ENGINEERS FOR SALES AND TECHNICAL

- Male (for Technical) Female (for Sales), below 30 years of age
- Graduate in Electronics and Communication Eng'g. or any related field (for Sales)
- Good moral character, with pleasing personality
- At least one (1) year experience, an advantage
- Self-motivated and goal oriented

Interested parties may come for interview with RESUMÉ and picture starting May 7, 2007 at the following address:

**PROSERV COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS**
U-11A G/F Century Plaza Bldg.
120 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 893-5399

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**The Girl Scouts of the Philippines, National Headquarters urgently needs the following personnel:**

### COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

Basic qualifications:
a. Graduate of four year course preferably on communications.
b. Female, preferably a girl scout during her school days.
c. Very good in written and oral communications
d. Must be computer literate

### SECRETARIES

Basic qualifications:
a. Graduate of four year course preferably on communications
b. Female, girl scouting experience an advantage.
c. With at least two years experience in taking minutes of Board Meetings
d. Must be very good in written and oral communications
e. Must be computer literate

Please look for **Alice or Michelle** of Personnel Division, Girl Scouts of the Philippines National Headquarters, 901 Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila. Telephone Numbers: **5238331-42** loc. **209** (at the back of Manila Science High School)
E-mail address at: **gspnhq@tri-isys.com.**

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MOODY INTERNATIONAL

MOODY INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, *a leading global supplier of management system certification, technical and inspection services, product certification and technical training is in immediate need of the following:*

1. Title : Technical Recruiter
Reports to : Director, Personnel Staffing
Location : Manila, Philippines

Responsibilities
Aggressively work to fill open personnel requisition/ recruitment requests required by regional sales team.
Proactively develop, manage and direct local/regional recruitment strategies designed to identify and target resources in designated territories.
Populate central recruitment database with constant supply of candidates from the designated territories.
Communicate effectively with other corporate offices and with the various Business units to facilitate client and/or hiring manager submittals.
Interview, screen and conduct pre-submittal interviews and background/reference checks of candidates to ensure proper alignment with job requirements (including qualifications, availability, compensation, etc.)
Negotiate and close compensation agreements, including logistics, fringe benefits, etc.
Assist in the mobilization, deployment planning and logistics if and when necessary
Must be capable of and willing to travel locally and abroad when needed.

Qualifications
A. Education
- Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources/ Psychology/ Business Administration or related fields.

B. Experience
- Previous experience in personnel recruitment, locally and abroad
- At least five (5) years experience of staffing, human resource or recruitment experience in a dynamic and diverse environment-preferably in the Oil, Gas, and Energy market sector (OG&E)
- Experience with web-based applicant tracking systems as well as experience in recruiting through the use of job boards, networking and advanced sourcing techniques.
- Previous experience with POEA (licensing, compliance, etc.)

C. Professional Skills, Knowledge and Personal Qualities
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills in English and local languages
- Proven recruitment track record in the placement of personnel
- Understanding of fundamental employment compensation terms and processes in identified local/global regions
- Proficient in basic computer skills (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, etc.)
- Self-motivated and able to work independently with limited local supervision
- Physically fit

2. Title
Junior Accountant
- College degree in Accountancy, Financial Accounting or Managerial Accounting
- At least three (3) years experience in accounting including compliance reporting to government agencies
- Strong analytical and problem solving capability
- Computer skills

*Competitive compensation awaits the successful candidates. Qualified applicants may send their resume with recent photo to central@moodyphilippines.com. Contact Mr. Rolly Ortañez or Ms. Elsa Punlacion at telephone nos. 534 7081; 534 5994, 532 1532 or 535 0300 for inquiry.*

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## TEACHERS

- With excellent English communication skills
- Preferably graduates of UP, Ateneo and La Salle
- English, Science and Math majors
- Experienced in teaching ESL and/or academic subjects
- Between 20-50 years old
- Foreigners (Americans, British, etc.) are most welcome to apply

Submit your resumé on or before May 11, 2007 to:

TG ACADEMY
Unit 205, Strata 2000, Emerald Ave., Ortigas
631-7580 / 631-7579

We conduct English & academic tutorials for Filipinos & foreigners.

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## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

### ACCOUNTING STAFF / CREDIT & COLLECTION OFFICER *(For Manila)*

- Preferably female, not more than 28 yrs. old / up to 35 yrs. old.
- Bachelor of Science in Accounting graduate with experience.
- With good oral and written communications skills.
- Highly analytical and very keen on details.
- Reliable, honest and willing to work beyond office hours.
- Well versed on window based applications and knowledge on any accounting software is a plus.
- With experience in auditing and credit and collection *(For Credit & Collection Office*

### ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES *(For Manila/North and South Luzon)*

- Male or Female, not more than 30 yrs. old.
- A graduate of medical science or business related course.
- He/She should be hardworking and persistent as the job calls for promoting products to hospital/laboratory end-users and creating the demands for these products.
- With excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Experience in sales an advantage but not required.

### DISTRICT MANAGERS *(For Manila)*

- Male or Female, not more than 35 yrs. old.
- A graduate of medical science or business related course with minimum of 2 yrs. sales experience in hospital or allied industries.
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Personable, confident, hardworking and assertive
- Computer literate and willing to travel.

### PRODUCT MANAGERS *(For Manila)*

- Male or Female, not more than 35 yrs. old.
- A graduate of business, marketing or any medical related courses.
- With at least 2 years sales experience in hospital or allied industries
- In-charge in training sales people, conducting product demonstrations.
- With good PR as well as leadership and managerial skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Computer literate and willing to travel

*For deployment in Taytay area:*

### PHARMACISTS

- Male or Female
- Good oral and written communications skills.
- With PRC License/PRC Board Certificate.
- With BFAD Seminar Certificate Regulation Division I.

### MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

- Male or Female, 23-30 yrs. old.
- Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology graduate with license.
- With or without experience.

### RAD TECH

- Female not more than 28 yrs. old.
- Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology graduate with license.
- With experience in x-ray and ultrasound.

*Interested qualified applicants are requested to apply in person with their application letter, comprehensive resume, transcript of record, diploma, SSS and TIN numbers and recent 2" x 2" picture starting on May 7 onwards from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 n.n. & 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Look for Ms. Jane Bundoc*

FMEI
FERNANDO MEDICAL ENTERPRISES, INC.

Human Resource Department
1468 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., cor. Betty Go Belmonte St. New Manila, Q.C.
email: corporate@fmei-luzon.com.ph

WORKING PEOPLE

E-mail: workingpeople@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

# Job opportunities for a high school graduate

**I HAVE JUST GRADUATED from high school here in our town. I want to go to college to study but my parents are very poor. They want me to go to Manila to work and to study at the same time. Where can I get a job in Manila? Also, is there a chance for me to work abroad? Please advise me.**

**Ms Hopeful**

**ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR**

*Josie O. Santamaria*

Yes, there are jobs for high school graduates. There are jobs as salesworkers (in department stores), service crew (in food outlets), manufacturing (as in assembly lines in plants/factories as operators and production workers, etc.) that do not require a college degree. You, however, may be subject to periods of unemployment such as working only for five months at a time, after which, you will have to look for a job elsewhere and work again for another 5 months, and so on. If you are employed by an agency that supplies manpower to different companies, they will be the ones to deploy you where you can work.

If you work in Manila, your entire wage will most likely go to your transportation, room and food. It may not even be enough. You may not be able to study at night and work at the same time. I suggest that you rethink your plans of going to Manila for work.

It would be better for you to find a job in a city nearest your hometown or province. I suggest that you go to the city hall nearest to your town and look for Peso (Public Employment Service Office) of the Department of Labor and Employment. The Peso has a list of job openings for various levels: operator (for high school graduates and undergraduates); technician (with two years of additional training beyond high school), and professional (for those with college degree). And these jobs are available in the province or region where you come from.

Since you want to pursue college, take time to find out what course to take. This course should be related to your interests and aptitudes, and, at the same time, will enable you to acquire skills that are likely to be in demand in the next three or five years. While waiting to get a job take time to visit Tesda (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) in your region for vocational-technical courses you can take that will equip you with skills for jobs available here and abroad. Tesda operates training centers in different regions in the Philippines.

And when you find work, save an amount from your monthly earnings. Do not spend money on cellphone and texting, on clothes and accessories, etc. Buy only what is necessary. Don't forget to tell your parents and siblings about your ambition so that they can cooperate with you, encourage you and pray for you.

I suggest that you invest in a great book that will inspire you to have a vision and motivate you to strive to achieve it. I recommend "A Tale of Juliet," written by Jhet Torcelino van Ruyven who rose from poverty (yes, she had been extremely poor) to prosperity and is now happy and successful in her life, career and marriage.

The book is available in newsprint for P295 in popular bookstores such as National. It is a heart-stirring life story of a Filipina who had no college degree but was able to work in the Middle East where she met a good man, a foreigner, who loved her very much and married her. She and her family now live in North America. Her strength of vision, her burning desire to achieve and unwavering determination, and the power of prayer, enabled her to take actions that changed the course of her life. Try to buy her book and then e-mail your reaction to her at jhet@thetaleofjuliet.com. God bless you.

*(The author is a management consultant, coach and counselor, and president of Career Systems, Inc., a management, organization and human resource development company. Send feedback at josantamaria@careersystems.com.ph.)*

# Starting over at midlife and beyond

**By Suzie H. Arcenas**
*Contributor*

AS A MAJOR TRANSITION IN our lives, retirement has not yet acquired the importance or symbolism of other milestones such as marriage, childbirth and other events. People sometimes underestimate its impact and view it as a one-time event.

Do you know people who retired in the 60s? At that time, the average life expectancy was shorter. Some workers continued to work in the same company until age 65 and expected to live only a few years as retirees. Today, with increased life expectancy and improved medical care, many people are expected to enjoy good health well into their 80s. Thus, they can spend a quarter of their lives in retirement.

Retirement is more than one day in your life when you stop working. It is an ongoing process that has significant and long-lasting impact. On the positive side, retirement can be an opportunity to do things you have always wanted and a chance to find new challenges. On the negative side, it can lead to disillusionment due to:

- the loss of constructive activity and company support;
- the loss of status and pride derived from a position title;
- the loss of income over the long-term, coupled with health concerns.

It is not enough to refer to other people's experiences as the model for the retirement period.

One must expect the process to go through several stages:

•Pre-retirement. When plans are made and attitudes are formed about retirement. This is the most important stage, yet not much thought is given to the conditions that may arise, from self-sufficiency to dependence on family or one's children.

•Honeymoon period. When people feel free from job obligations with substantial money in the bank for travel and rest.

•Disenchantment. When people realize that they need to set realistic lifestyle goals and continue to earn for their practical needs such as housing, food and medical needs.

Many people see retirement as a perpetual rest, free of deadlines and financial woes. However, after the initial excitement, they realize that they are not emotionally prepared to deal with a new set of challenges. Anxiety or depression can affect senior adults who are ill-prepared for this phase in their lives.

Furthermore, there is a trend among companies to offer early retirement with employees in their 50s availing of special financial packages years before their retirement age. Restructuring and redundancies are common even among the large and secure corporations. Such corporations need to prepare their employees with a comprehensive training program for their senior years.

### Retirement success

Few Filipinos really plan for retirement. Many employees view this period as the end of hard work and the start of leisure. However, most thinking Filipino professionals do not see themselves standing on the golf course or looking over the beach for the rest of their lives. Most would like to fulfill a higher purpose beyond the gaming table and the mall.

Drake Beam Morin Phils. provides workshops that include self-assessment of senior executives. It shows various options to choose from to enable retirees to still live enriching lives beyond retirement. The workshops reveal the hidden fears of idle and nonproductive days. The possibility of domestic stress is also tackled. The subject of relationships and communication were discussed; spouses also learned from the workshop.

The workshops delve into subjects such as:

- the importance of career orientation and the process of letting go
- health maintenance and financial planning
- life cycles and ageing with grace.
- preparing for your next career

### Need for a good counselor

Today, a second career is a possible dream. After the long climb up the corporate ladder, one can engage in a different field after 50 or 60 years old. Teaching, marketing, and mentoring are just a few of the rewarding jobs for seniors. It is normal for individuals to fear a major change.

While men identify their self-esteem with career and authority, women reflect on events in their personal lives such as promotions, multitasking, and caring for others.

By comparing notes, participants in a workshop learn from each other.

In a fast-changing world, when a major transition occurs in our lives, we need distance and perspective to understand what caused this event. You need all of your mental and emotional resources directed to taking care of your personal business.

*(The author is is a senior consultant for Drake Beam Morin [DBM] Phils. Inc. She has guided and mentored senior executives and junior employees through their career transitions.)*

# *Work-related cancer deaths on the rise*

GENEVA—AT LEAST 200,000 people die every year from cancers related to their workplaces, mainly from inhaling asbestos fibers and second-hand tobacco smoke, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

The UN agency said every 10th lung cancer death is related to occupational hazards, and about 125 million people worldwide are exposed to asbestos at work, leading to at least 90,000 deaths each year.

Thousands more die of leukemia from workplace exposure to benzene—an organic compound used in rubbers, dyes, drugs and pesticides, widely used in chemical and diamond industries—and those exposed to second-hand smoke at work have twice the risk of lung cancer than those in a smoke-free environment.

"Known and preventable exposures are clearly responsible for hundreds of thousands of excess cancer cases each year," Maria Neira, WHO director of public health and environment, said in a statement released in Geneva.

The WHO urged governments and industry to tighten safety standards to ensure workers are not exposed to carcinogens.

Stopping the use of asbestos, using benzene-free organic solvents and banning tobacco in the workplace could help prevent hundreds of thousands of unnecessary deaths, it said. ***Reuters***

# Flip-flops, tank tops top on-the-job fashion faux pas

SHOPPING FOR SUMMER CLOTHES to wear to work? Forget the tank tops and loose the flip-flops.

A new survey showed tank tops and visible underwear are the biggest fashion faux pas on the job, according to Monster, an online job and recruiting site, which compiled more than 18,000 responses to an online poll.

Results were released this week by Monster, whose parent company is Monster Worldwide Inc.

Flip-flop sandals weighed in next on the list of fashion mistakes, followed by Hawaiian prints and shorts, it said.

What you wear at work speaks volumes, said Norma Gaffin, director of content at Monster, based in Maynard, Massachusetts.

"Do you want to look like you're 14? How seriously are people going to take you if they can see your bra? Or if you're wearing flip-flops, and they can hear you walking down the hall before you get there?" she said.

"If you want more responsibility and more autonomy, you're going to be taken more seriously if you're dressing appropriately," she said.

Gaffin, who in her role at Monster provides advice to jobseekers, says she tells people undergoing job interviews by telephone to dress professionally, even at home.

"You will have a different demeanor if you're wearing your pajamas versus if you're wearing clothes. If those things are reflected over the voice when people can't see you, what is it reflecting when they can?" she said.

The results of the survey were based on 18,178 votes cast by Monster users from March 23 to April 2.

Monster runs a series of online polls to gauge users' opinions on a variety of topics relating to careers, the economy and the workplace. Only one vote per user is counted toward the final tabulation, it said.

***Reuters***

## REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

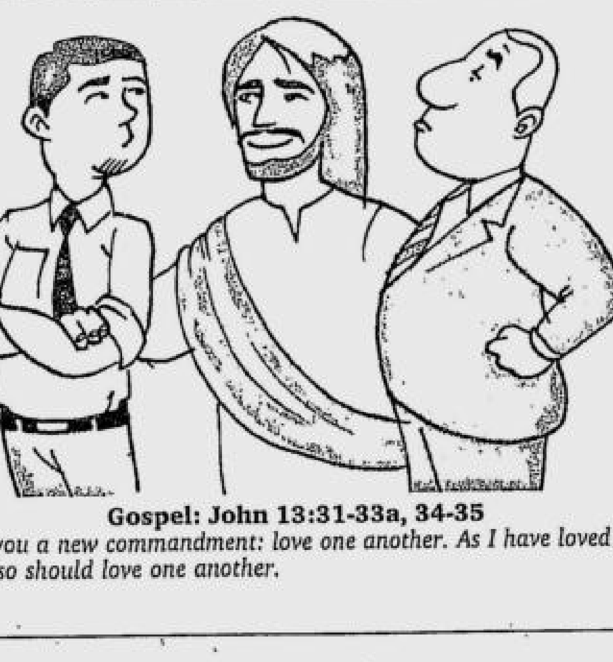
# *To work without love*

**By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS**

WHAT THINGS DO WE LOOK FOR WHEN WE ARE JOB HUNTING? More often than not, we are on the lookout for "good working conditions." Is the pay fair? Are the benefits adequate? Then we normally set these against our needs and if they suffice we take the job. When employers have openings for workers, likewise, their concern is whether the jobseekers they are taking have the competence needed, and are worth the salary they will be paying. Tests are administered and analyzed—medical, psychological, IQ—and police or NBI clearances are demanded.

We can name so many other concerns on both the employer's and the employee's sides at hiring time but 99.9 times out of a hundred, all those concerns would boil down to economics, as though work ought to be, simply, a skills buy-and-sell. While we do not see anything wrong with this system—we cannot say it is absolutely right, either, because it leaves much of the human potential untapped.

Those who are happiest and most satisfied and fulfilled in their jobs are those who, in considering a job to take, consciously look into the "love angle" in a workplace. Unashamed to make love their ultimate standard at work, they are interested in knowing if the workers love their work and one another. They know that if work in a place is largely a loveless trade between money and skills, employees end up always asking for more yet never getting enough. Are you working without love? Ask yourself: Do I love my job so much I will pay to do it? If your answer is yes, then maybe you're on your way to becoming a little Jesus in the workplace. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*



**Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35**

*I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.*

# *Working–true loving*

**By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD**

WHEN ONE PREPARES FOR A NEW JOB OR EVEN SIMPLY REPORT to his daily work, he would almost never think about whether his heart is ready to love and embrace his job; but he would certainly check whether he has enough brains and brawns (knowledge and skills) to face the challenges of the work. Business and work seem to demand from the human person all that he can do except that of loving. Though there may at times be people who would claim they "love their jobs," their loving might mean more of a liking than willing—an emotional feeling more than an act of will or a free choice. It would seem therefore difficult for anyone to fulfill the "new commandment" of love which Jesus asks in today's Gospel especially in business and the workplace.

Yet, in these mundane places everyone could love as Jesus loves—an act of self-giving. In fact, doing a task could be a worker's act of total self-giving and therefore his act of loving the way Jesus does. He does so when he works not merely by exerting a mechanical movement of his body or allowing the interplay of its more sophisticated, internal tissues and organs like the brain but also by willfully, freely and wholeheartedly offering his whole self—body and soul—to the work and to the people for whom he works. To add this element to one's work would not need much elaborate technical preparation or job qualification but simply a humble faith in Jesus.

When both boss and ordinary laborer work with Jesus' kind of love, both become equal in worth and dignity before God, and one's rank in the workplace could then be considered as ways or levels of loving others. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

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**Requirements**

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- Highly organized and systematic, and has a keen eye for detail
- Is proactive and exudes confidence in decision making
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- Possesses excellent work ethics and values
- Must be willing to work on a rotating shift

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## mission alliance

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- Graduate of a 4-year Social Science Course such as Community Development, Social Work, Development Studies
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- Has the capacity to train and facilitate
- A confessing Christian

### Health Analyst

- Graduate of a 4-year health related course such as Nursing, Nutrition, Med-Tech
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- Has the capacity to train and facilitate
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- Responsible, assertive and can work under minimum supervision

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Previous applicants need not apply

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Department of Finance
**BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE**
LAMP2
VALUATION - PMO

The **Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP 2)** is funded with grant for Technical Assistance from the Australian Government and World Bank loan to the Philippine Government. Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) and National Tax Research Center (NTRC) of the Department of Finance which implement the Valuation and Taxation Component of LAMP 2 require the following middle level specialists:

**Financial Management Specialist (1)**
**Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (1)**
**Property Valuation /Assessment Specialists (3)**
**Information, Education and Communications Specialist (1)**
**Training/ Human Resource Development Specialist (1)**
**Tax Policy Specialist (1)**

**For the above positions, minimum requirement is tertiary degree (Bachelor's) in fields related to the position, five years experience and computer literacy. Compensation is in the range of PHP30 to 40,000/month (all-inclusive).** *Please log on to www.phil-lamp.org for project information. For detailed Terms of Reference, please contact pa_lamp2@yahoo.com* Applicants should submit their CV with cover letter address to the Project Component Manager with at least two (2) references. You may send your CV through:

- Email to pa_lamp2@yahoo.com or to jpmercs@yahoo.com
- Hand carry or mail to

  **The Project Component Manager**
  LAMP2 Office
  Bureau of Local Government Finance
  8th Floor EDPC Bldg., BSP Complex
  Roxas Blvd., Manila

**Deadline for Submission: Friday, 14 May 2007**

**Ma. Presentacion R. Montesa**
Executive Director &
Project Component Manager-LAMP2

---

## the orange room
graphic design studio

needs more wild & wacky people for the following positions:

### ACCOUNT MANAGERS

- At least 2 yrs experience as account manager in an advertising or graphic design agency
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- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications
- Single, between 25 & 30 yrs old

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- Has good manual illustration skills
- Has work experience in an advertising or graphic design agency
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- Fine Arts graduate
- Single, between 23 & 28 yrs old

Email your resume to: **designstudio111@yahoo.com**

---

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5. English-Reading Teacher

### SPD DEPARTMENT

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3. ESL Teacher

### IT DEPARTMENT

1. Teachers

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1. Jr. Accountant (BS Accountancy Graduate)
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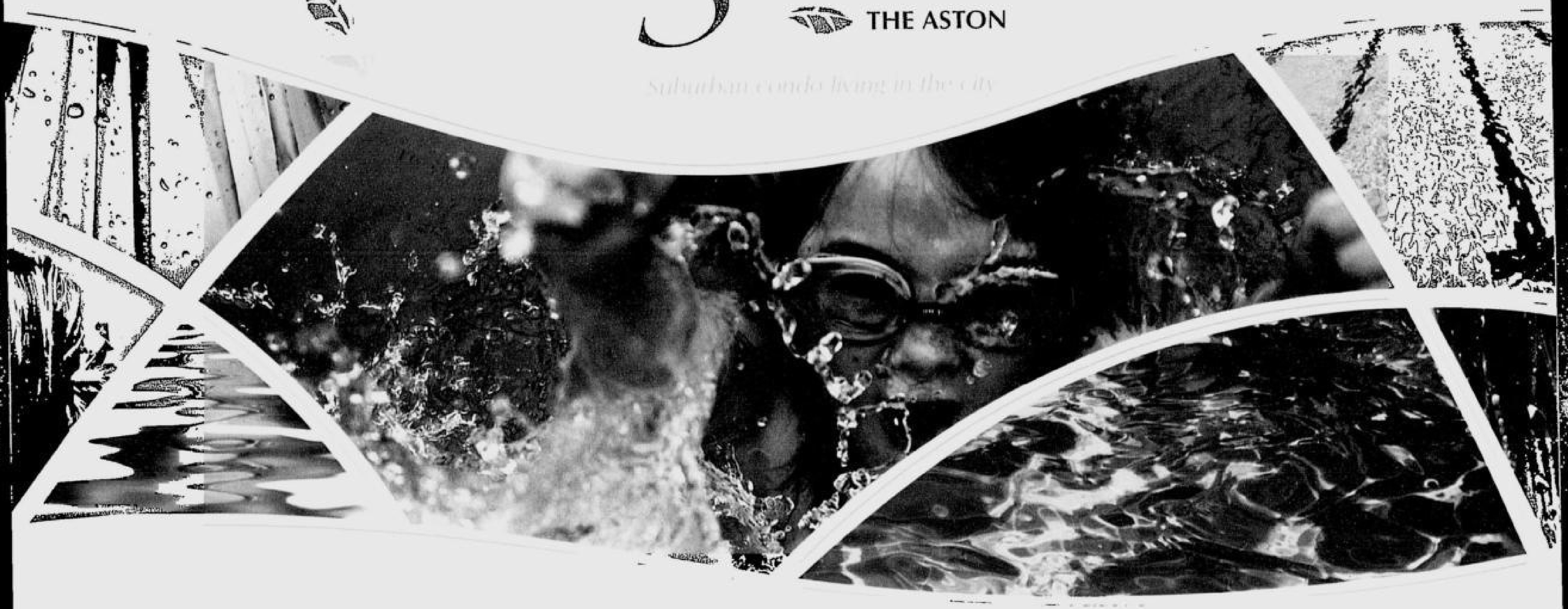
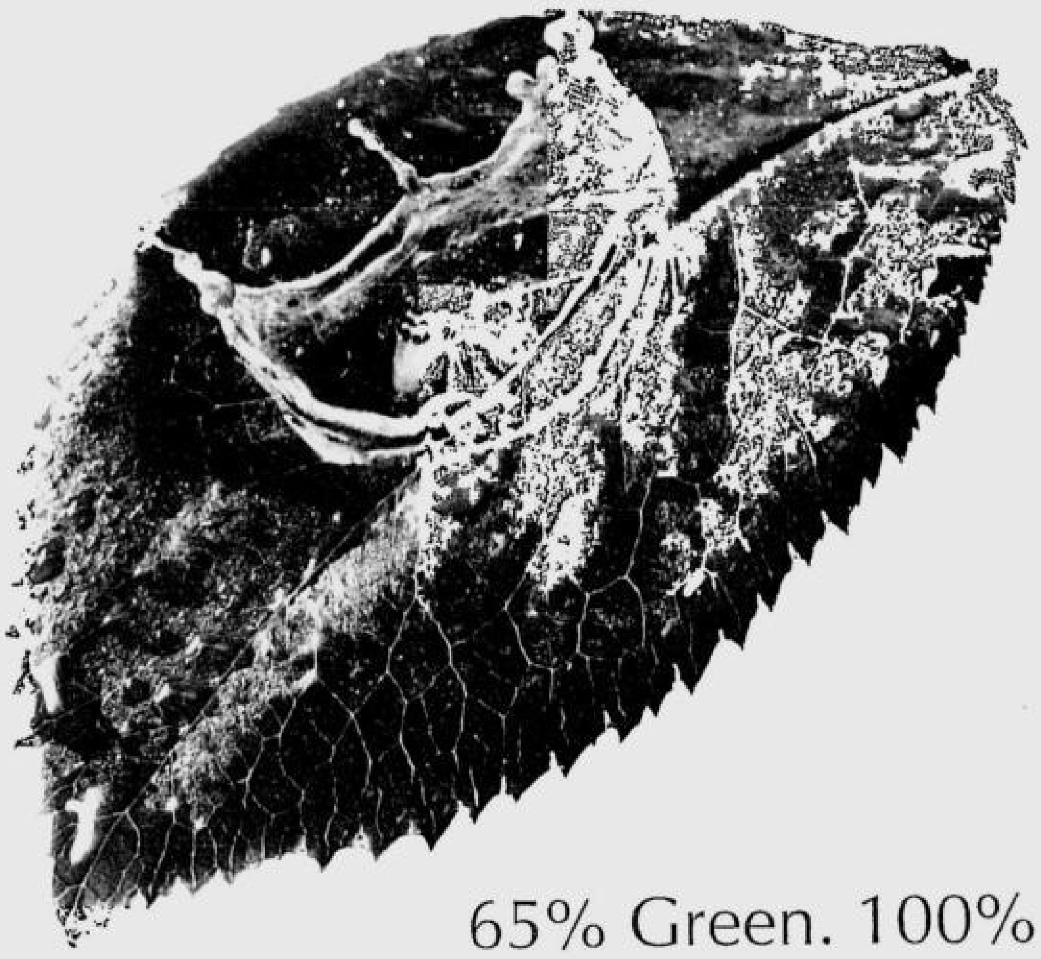
*Two Serendra*

THE ASTON

*Suburban condo living in the city*



## *A classic recipe for a fresher Two Serendra - just add water!*



65% Green. 100% Invigorating.

## Introducing The Aston

Glorious water features. Reflecting ponds. A 50-meter competition pool.

Two Serendra offers resort-style living with its new high-rise section - *The Aston*, which boasts of unique features that provide a blend of fun and leisure. You'll find a children's paradise where a river boat is docked by the splash pool and a bridge leads to a tree house. *The Aston* is an excellent gathering spot and recreational place where family-friendly activities abound.

There's much to be discovered and enjoyed at The Aston at Two Serendra.
An invigorating experience just outside your door.

www.twoserendra.com.ph Call: 856.1888 twoserendra@ayalaland.com.ph

Community Innovations
*Live the life you deserve*
an AyalaLand company

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Special **FEATURE**
SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2007

Two Serendra
THE ASTON

suburban condo living [illegible] h

# The Ambient Appeal of Two Serendra

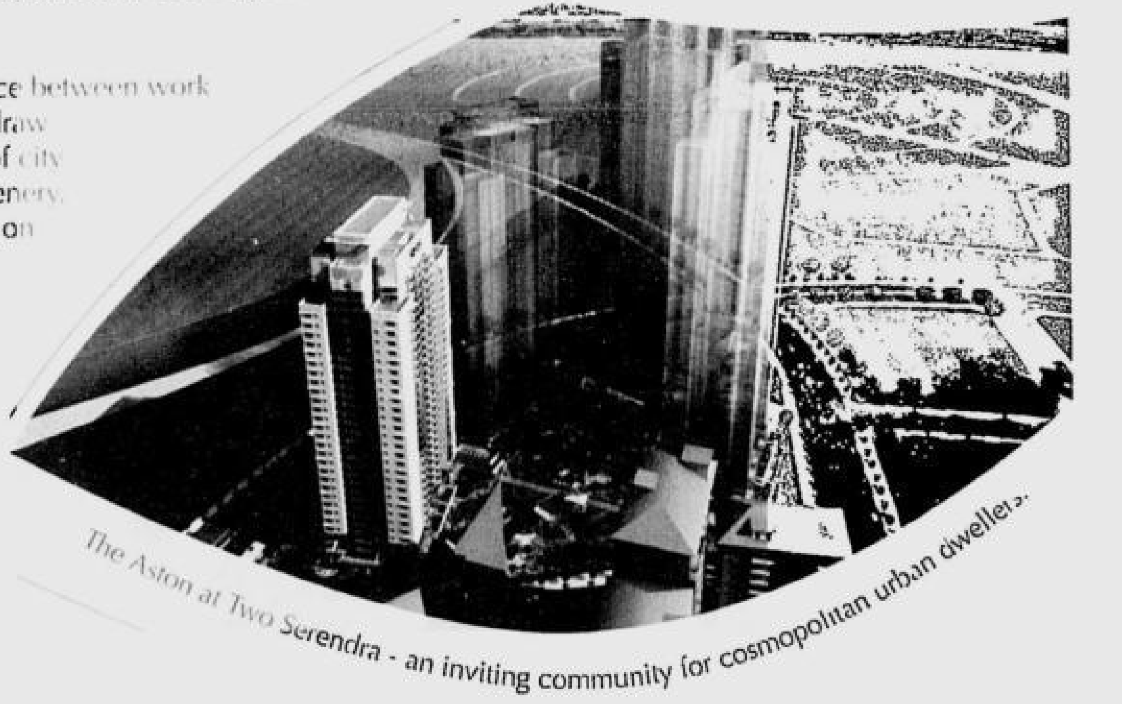
View of the central water park from The Sequoia

Residential living is reaching new levels of sophistication and convenience as Community Innovations (an Ayala Land company) launches the newest and final phase of Two Serendra the latest addition to the masterplanned estate that blends the cosmopolitan convenience of city living with the charm and tranquility of a suburban neighborhood. A series of high-rise sections named after trees that denote stability and grandeur will unfold, each with a unique character, yet unified by a central water theme that offers a relaxing resort feel.

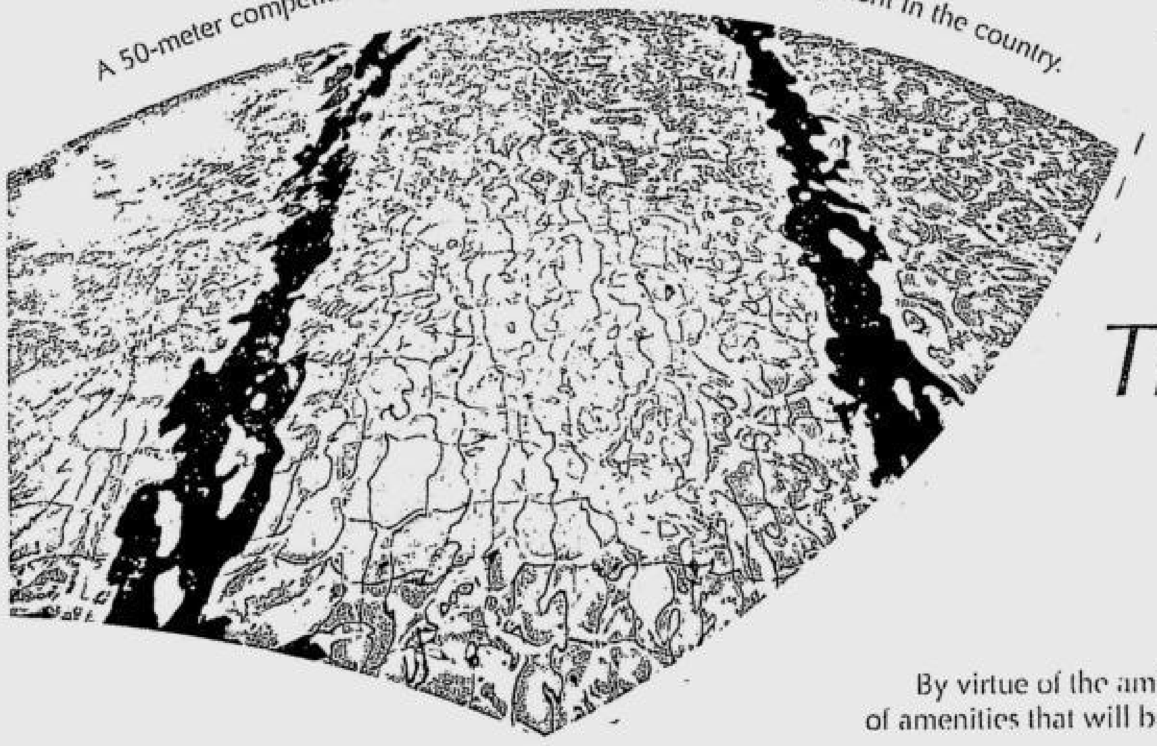
*The Aston, The Banyan, The Red Oak and The Sequoia* hark back to grand European coastal getaways and aquatic landmarks -a calming aesthetic that sets off the lush landscape of Two Serendra. Two Serendra's newest phase that feature distinctly designed homes offer studio, one, two and three bedroom units that dazzle urbanites with waterfront panoramas and verdant views from the unit's bay windows or balconies. Expansive pools, meandering water elements and fountains surrounding the development serves as an idyllic theme that creates a soothing enclave away from the city.

With its scenic and tree-canopied pathways, Two Serendra in its entirety was meticulously planned to be explored on foot. The third phase of the development is in fact connected to the other sections by a bridgeway that will be designed as a striking architectural landmark in the progressive Bonifacio Global City.

Two Serendra offers the best of both worlds as it continues to build homes that find the right balance between work and play. The distinctly laid-back pace within the development has proved itself to be a tempting draw for urbanites who long for the quiet charm of suburbia, but are not willing to forego the comforts of city living. Two Serendra has not only dedicated 65% of the development to open spaces and lush greenery, its meticulously masterplanned blueprint also defines a community that places utmost importance on quality of life and lifestyle essentials.


The Aston at Two Serendra - an inviting community for cosmopolitan urban dwellers.

A 50-meter competition pool, a first in any residential development in the country.

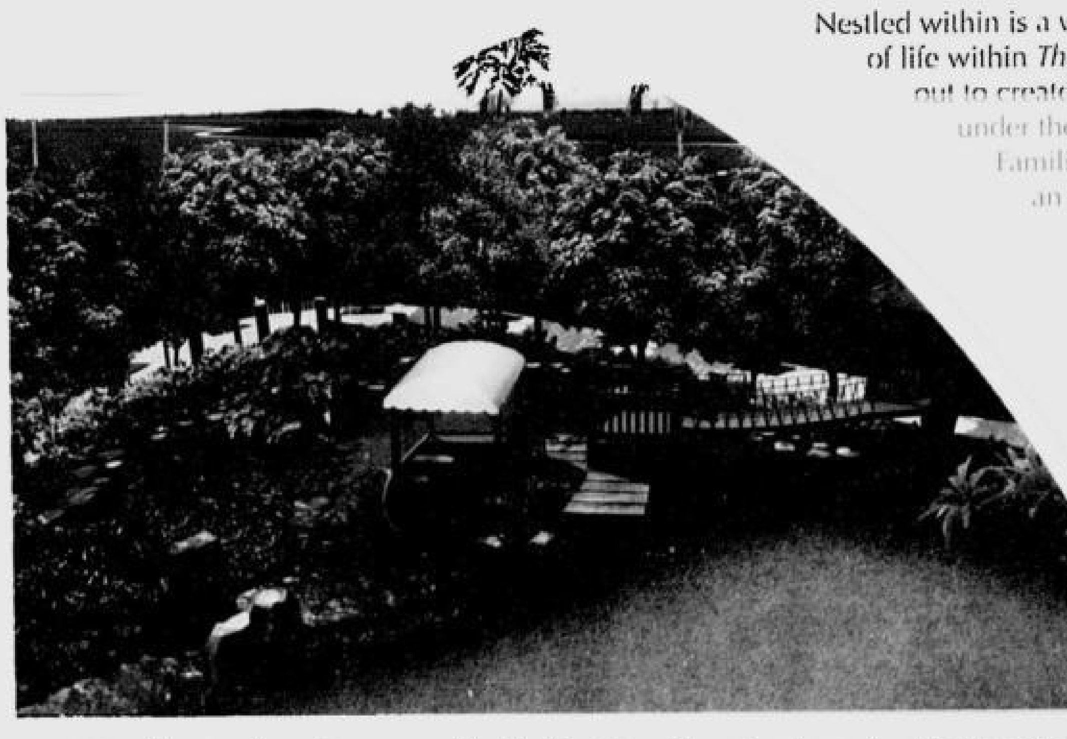


# The Aston at Two Serendra The Urban Family's Ultimate Haven

By virtue of the ambience alone, *The Aston* is a charming and enticing option for urbanites but it's the wealth of amenities that will be offered in the development that will seal the deal.

Nestled within is a wonderful array of family-friendly amenities that will undoubtedly become central to the way of life within *The Aston*. Beginning with the sprawling pools around the grounds, Community Innovations has set out to create a themed water garden experience for future residents. Kids will have the option to enjoy hours under the sun in the splash pool, open lawn, the river boat, tree house, hanging bridge and play area. Families can take a leisurely stroll under the shaded comfort of the forest walkway or go for an invigorating jog around the park.

*The Aston* at Two Serendra creates an inviting community for cosmopolitan urban dwellers who will be lucky enough to enjoy a lifestyle that others can only dream about. Located in the burgeoning Bonifacio Global City, the development has redefined urban living by bringing the tranquility of suburbia within the convenience and heart of an urban location. The lifestyle is healthy, but is mixed with the right dose of city convenience that brings families together and underscores a balance between work and play.


Kids will enjoy the unique amenities in *The Aston* like a tree house leading to a river boat.

*For inquiri[illegible] all 85[illegible]388*
*email twoserendr[illegible] ayala[illegible]*
*visit www [illegible]wose[illegible]ndr[illegible]*
*Model units are [illegible]ilable*
*daily from 9 am to 8 pm*
*at the [illegible]erendra Sales Pavilion*
*along 26th Street, Bonifacio [illegible]ity*

Community Innovations
an AyalaLand company

EMAIL N'YO KAMI SA
JI@INQUIRER.COM.PH!

Junior INQUIRER

SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 58

MOVIE TICKI !

for you and your family! Turn to page 2 to find out how.

# Once Upon a Spider

JI SNOOPS

By Pocholo Philip G. Eulalia
10 yrs. old

ALTHOUGH IT ALL STARTED in the 60s when comic book writer Stan Lee created the character, I only got to know "your friendly neighborhood Spider-man" in 2002. After watching that first Spidey movie, I believed that half of the world became fans of Spider-man.

In 2004, a second "Spider-man" movie was released. I really didn't see much of a difference from the first, except that they focused more on romance and had less action.

Now he's back with new friends, new enemies, and new problems. Plus, he finally showed a dark side while trying to defeat his enemies: Harry Osborn (James Franco) who wanted to take revenge at Peter for killing his father, Sandman (Thomas Haden Church) who tried to rob Uncle Ben, and finally, Venom (Topher Grace).

Compared to the first two "Spider-Man" movies, I consider "Spider-Man 3" the best because it has the most fight scenes. Most of them happened while falling off buildings.

There were funny moments, like when Peter danced weirdly in front of a store. There was a lot of drama too, like when Peter, Harry and M.J. fought with each other. You better close your eyes in some scenes, because there's kissing!

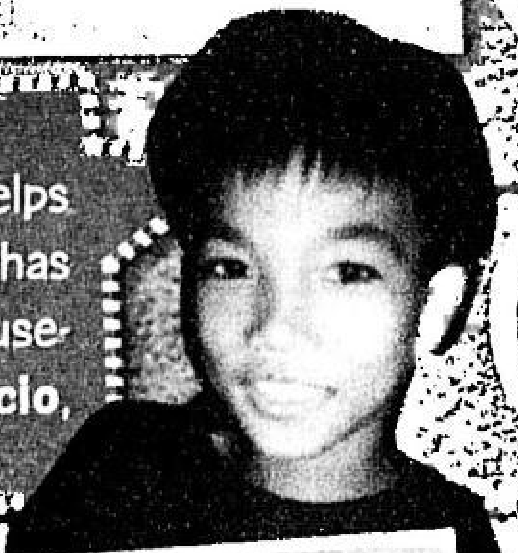
The special effects were great, especially when the gooey black substance from space took over Peter's suit. The black costume was cool if you like the color black, but I still prefer the original costume.

That's all I can tell you now. You'll just have to watch the movie for more web-slinging action!

## Think Out Loud!

# If you can vote, how will you choose your candidate?

I'll choose a candidate with less controversies surrounding them. I wouldn't vote for people accused of murdering another candidate.—Justin Cuevas, [illegible] years old, Sta. Rosa, Laguna



I'll vote for a candidate who helps out in the community, like if he has personally participated in house-building projects.—**Ivan Bonifacio**, 9 years old, Narra, Palawan

I want someone who champions Filipino causes. I can find that out. I watched his interviews and ads on television.—**Nivrom Bonifacio**, 11 years old, Taguig, Metro Manila

I will vote for a candidate who addresses my needs for education.—**Vida Marie Nicolas**, 10 years old, South Cembo, Makati

I like someone whose campaign doesn't focus on black propaganda against a fellow candidate.—**Daine Espiritu**, 9 years old, Taguig, Metro Manila

I'd vote for someone who has youth projects like the free arnis and aikido lessons in our town plaza.—**Steven Marcus Ramos**, 11 years old, Sta. Rosa Laguna

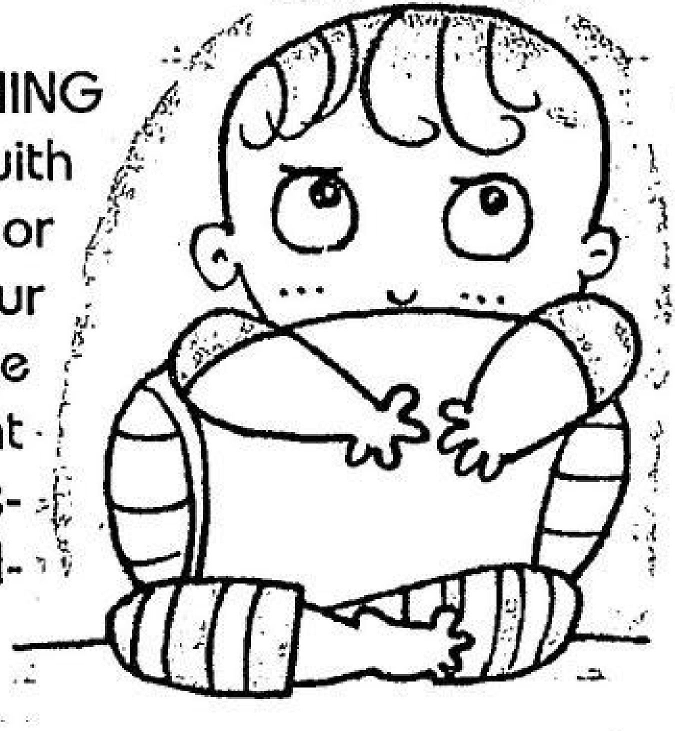
## Guyito's Corral

**Write to us**
<ji@inquirer.com.ph>
**Snail mail**
Philippine Daily Inquirer Building,
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly
Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and
Mascardo Sts., Makati City,
Philippines

Journal

# Saying sorry

By Kian C. Fernandez, 10 years old



FIGHTING IS SOMETHING you can't avoid, even with your brother or sister, or even your mom and your dad. But does it change anything if you fight with your brother or sister? He or she will always be family.

I have experienced fighting with my sister. We were fighting for a pillow, then my dad came and got mad at us. I said to myself: it is only a pillow. I went to my sister to say sorry and we laughed because we realized that we were fighting over a pillow. We went to dad and said sorry.

I think that after that, we learned to become better persons. We learned that it is better to say sorry than be a jerk.

**This May 13, we're paying tribute to that special person who takes care of us and showers us with hugs, kisses, and a whole-lotta-lovin'.**

Answer this question:

**How do you make your mom feel special?**

**Email ji@inquirer.com.ph about things you've done or plan to do, just to make sure mom feels the love! And don't forget to attach a photo of you and your mom!**

**If we choose you for our THINK OUT LOUD section, you will win 4 Glorietta MOVIE TICKETS for you and your family!**

**Deadline for submission is May 9.**

Junior INQUIRER

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*Marketing Officer*
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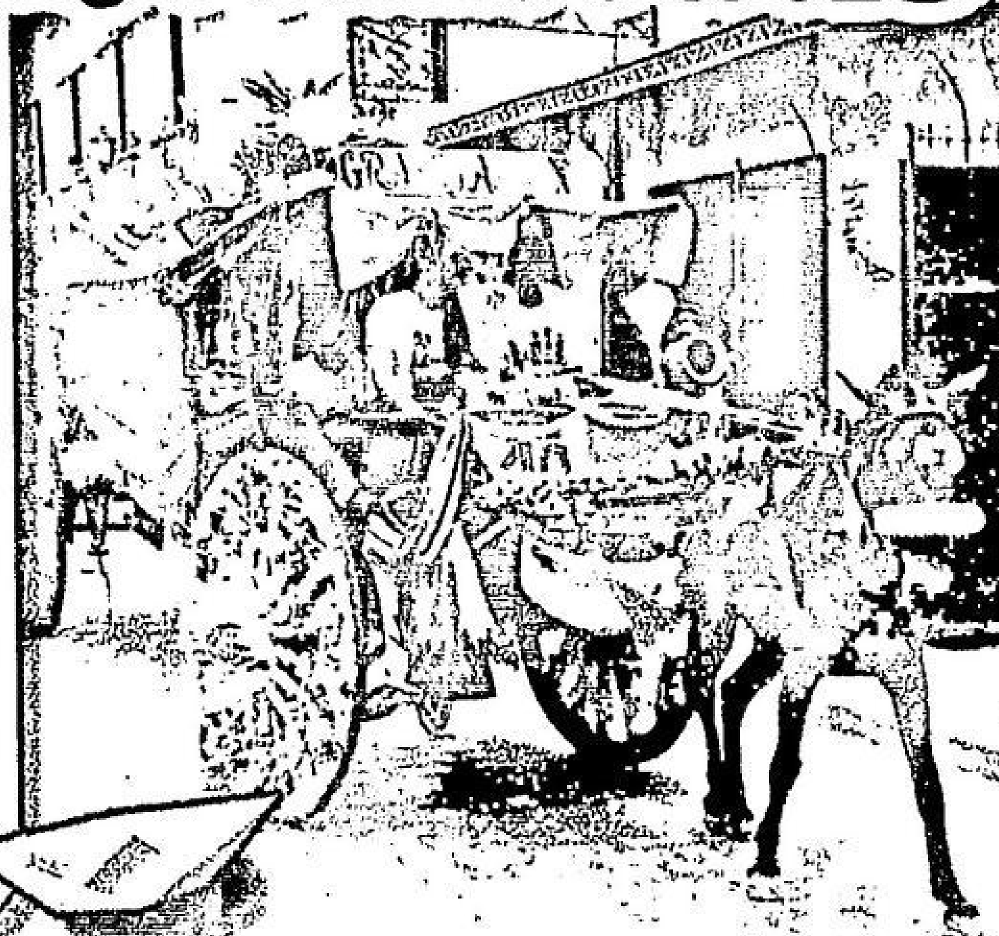
2005 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee Hall of Fame

WassUp World?

## Ilocos Sur, PHILIPPINES

### Viva Vigan!

PARTICIPANTS of the calesa parade decorated their carriages with native Vigan products as they pass through the Unesco inscribed world heritage site, Don Mena Crisologo Street in Vigan City. The parade was part of the 15th Viva Vigan Festival of Arts celebration. **Leoncio Balbin Jr./Inquirer Northern Luzon**



## Galapagos Islands, ECUADOR

### Hi, I'm George

FULL name: Lonesome George. I'm a tortoise living in the Galapagos Islands. They call me Lonesome George because I was ranked as the world's rarest living creature. That means I'm the last of my kind. They thought I had no relatives but now scientists have discovered that I may have a distant cousin! Well, who would have thought I'd get to attend a family reunion? **AFP**

## Sorsogon, PHILIPPINES

### Surf's not up!

YUP, you can ride waves even if the surf's already crashing down. Skimming or skim boarding is fast becoming a popular water sport in the Bicol region. This boy is skimming along Rizal Beach, Gubat town, Sorsogon, one of the white sand beaches in the province. **Joanna Los Baños/Inquirer Southern Luzon**

## Hampyeong, SOUTH KOREA

### Soaring with butterflies

CHILDREN play in a garden in Hampyeong, site of the famous Butterfly Festival, which attracts over one million tourists every year. Its highlights include tens of thousands of butterflies soaring in the vast gardens, a tour of a butterfly-shaped labyrinth, and traditional Korean games. **AFP**

## Jiangsu, CHINA

### Up the pagoda

BUDDHIST worshippers attend the opening ceremony of the Tianning pagoda in Jiangsu. A pagoda is a religious structure that's built like a tower with several levels. It usually houses religious relics and writings. Local officials say that the Tianning pagoda, which is 13 storeys high, is the tallest pagoda in the world. **Reuters**

# Fireflies on wheels

By Ruth L. Navarra

JUAN PABLO "Juancho" Crisostomo learned how to ride a bike when he was six. He thought his mom was still pushing him, helping him keep his balance. But when he looked back, he saw that he was doing it on his own. A sense of excitement washed over him.

Six years later, Juancho is in front of a pack of an estimated 5,000 bikers. He set the pace for the 50-km bicycle ride around Metro Manila for his family and the rest of the adults who were biking behind him.

"It took us six hours to finish the ride but I did not have a hard time," muses Juancho.

JUANCHO'S Proud to be a firefly!

The ride was not a competition. Instead, it was a race to save Mother Earth. Juancho led the 9th Tour of the Fireflies, which aims to raise awareness about the dangers of air pollution.

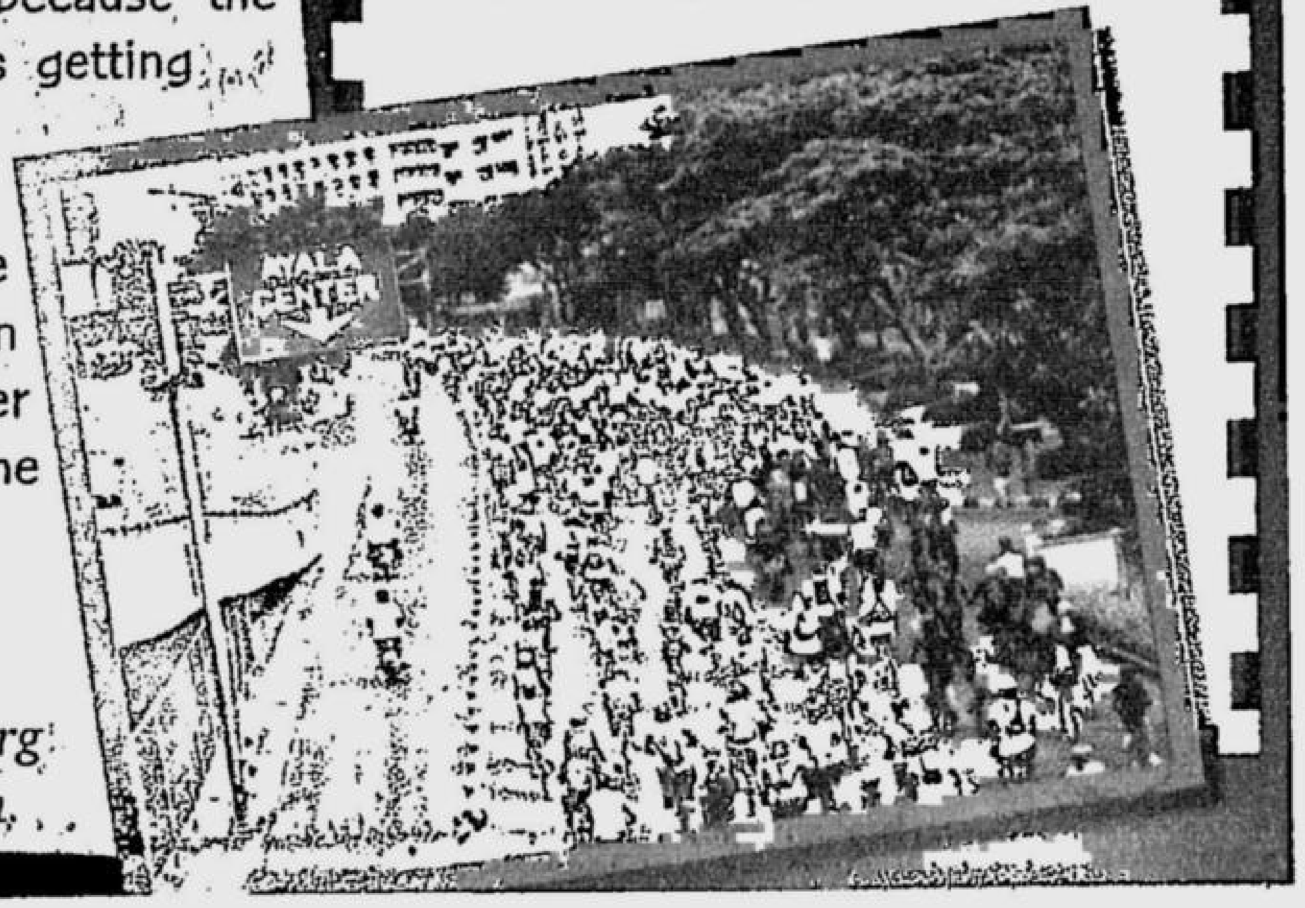
The tour is one of the programs of the Firefly Brigade, a group of ordinary citizens who encourage people to use bikes instead of cars. They named themselves after the creatures that are said to have fled the city because of air pollution.

"When you bike, you don't produce pollution because you don't need gas. No fumes are given off," he says. Since he is asthmatic, Juancho is particularly concerned about the health dangers that result from pollution. "A lot of kids could get sick from inhaling the smoke that comes out of the car," he explains.

Juancho says it's urgent that kids like him to do something about air pollution because the hole in the ozone is getting bigger.

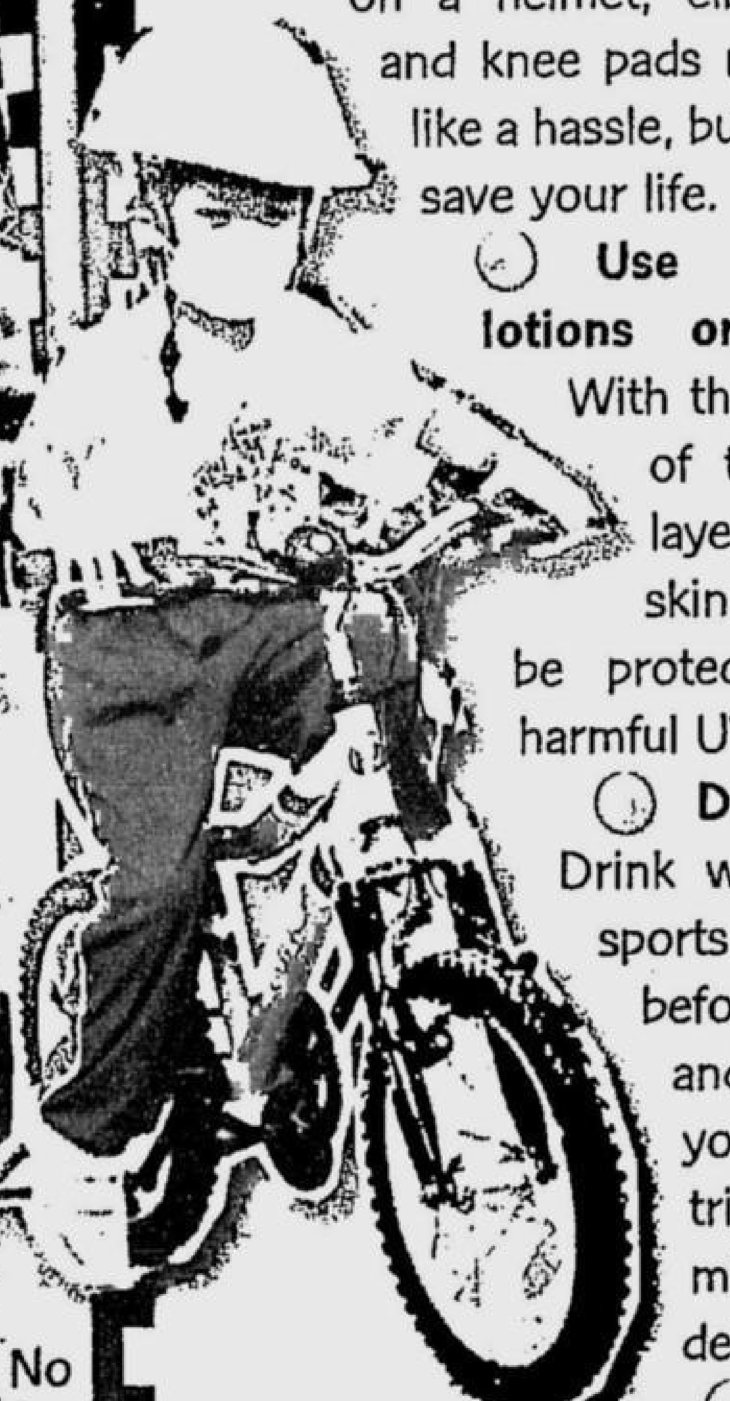
Hopefully, the time won't come when humans would suffer the fate of the fireflies.

*Visit www.fireflybrigade.org for more information.*



## Pointers for Pedal Pushers

IF YOU WANT TO BE A BIKING enthusiast like Juancho, here are what you have to remember.



○ **Ask for permission.** Let your parents know where you plan to go.

○ **Wear protective gear.** Putting on a helmet, elbow pads and knee pads may seem like a hassle, but they can save your life.

○ **Use sunblock lotions or sprays.** With the thinning of the ozone layer, your skin needs to be protected from harmful UV Rays.

○ **Drink up!** Drink water or a sports drink before, during and after your bike trip, or you might get dehydrated.

○ **Stay in bike lanes.** Familiarize yourself with the area you want to cycle through.

○ **Use reflectors.** Use neon protective gear, and blinkers or special stickers on your bike if you're going out at night. Even if you're just going around your village or barangay, it's necessary to alert cars of your presence.

## RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

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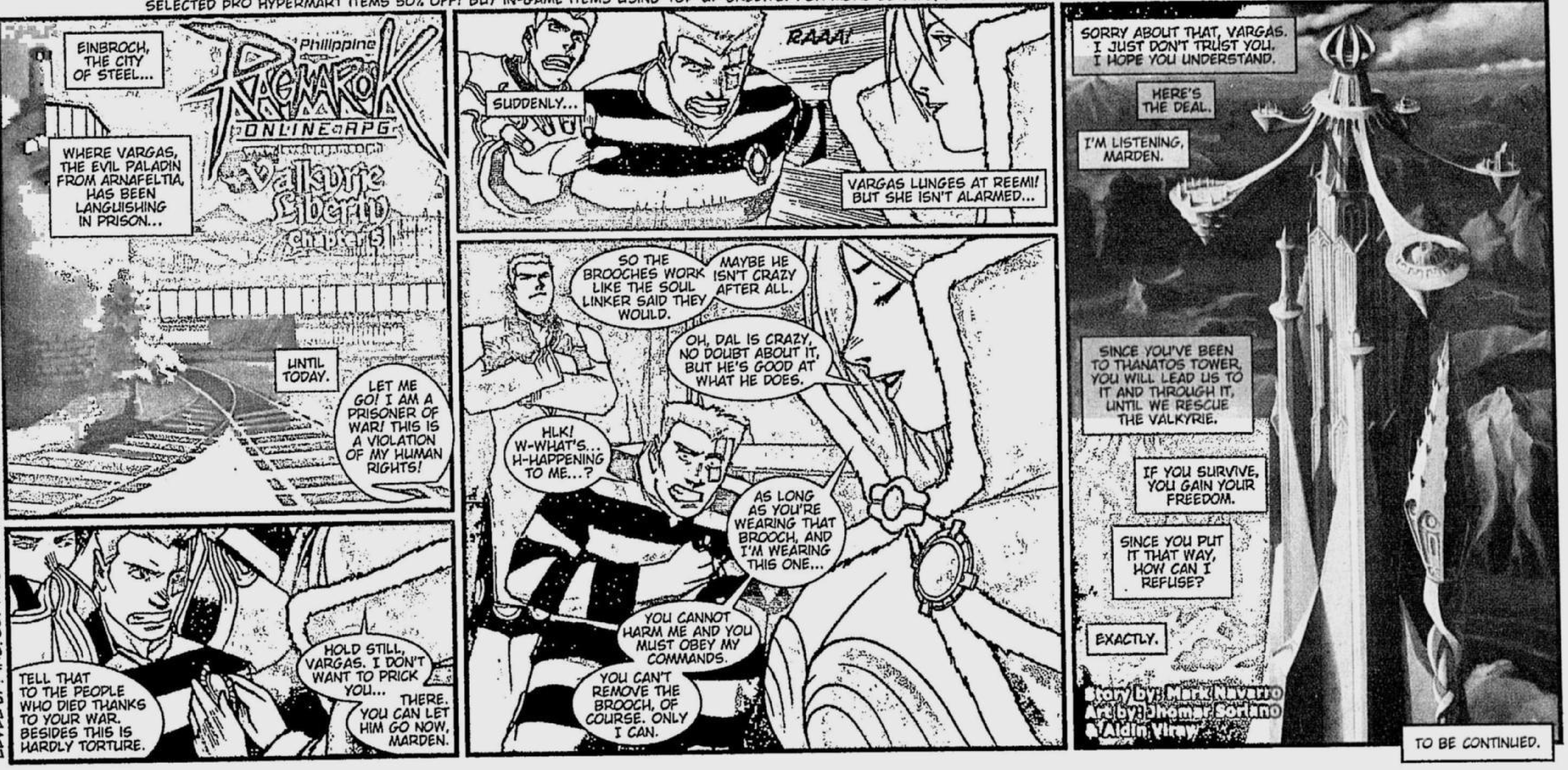
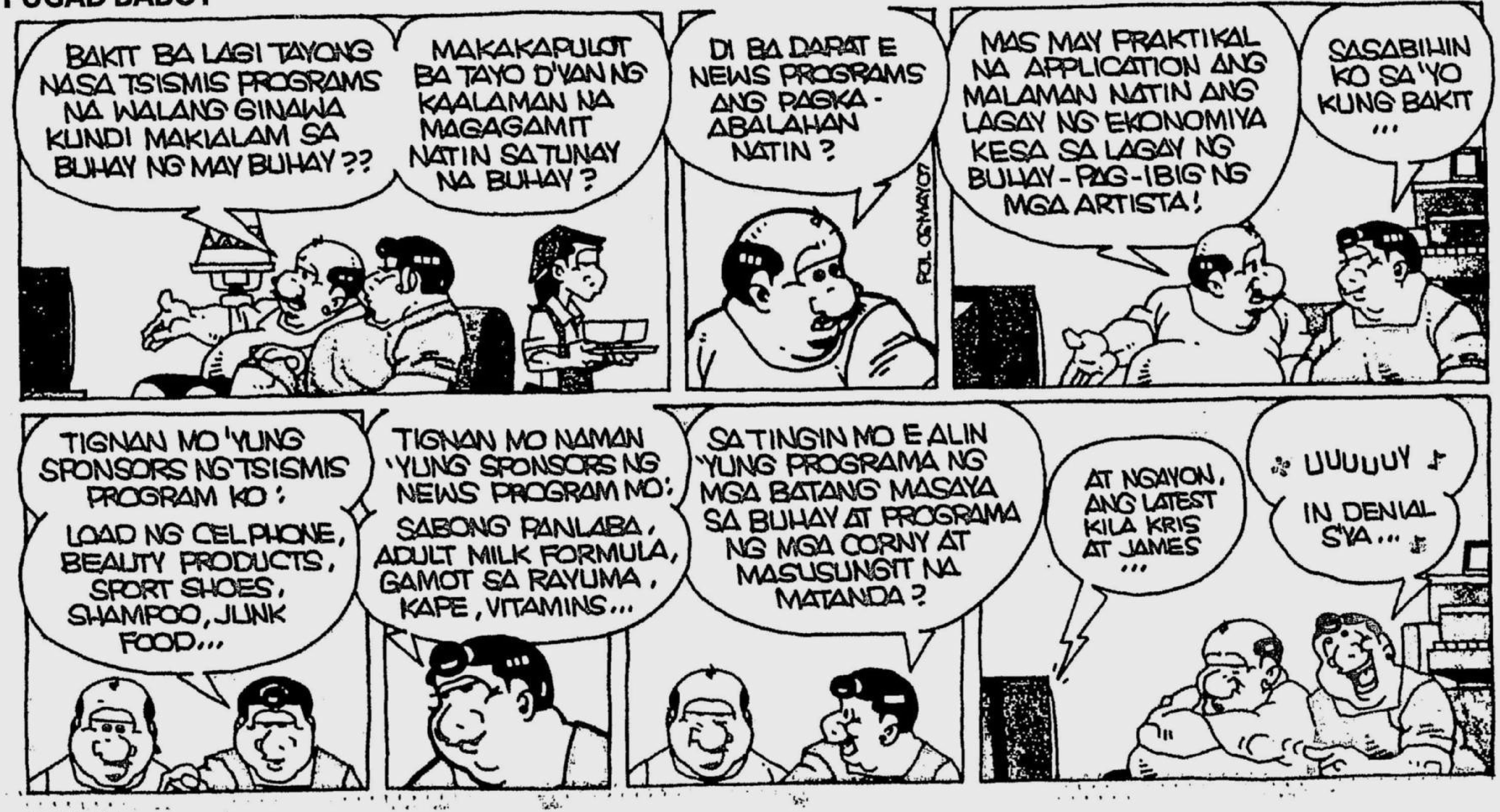

EINBROCH, THE CITY OF STEEL...
Philippine Ragnarok ONLINE RPG
Valkyrie Liberty Chapter 5
WHERE VARGAS, THE EVIL PALADIN FROM ARNAFELTIA, HAS BEEN LANGUISHING IN PRISON...
UNTIL TODAY.
LET ME GO! I AM A PRISONER OF WAR! THIS IS A VIOLATION OF MY HUMAN RIGHTS!
TELL THAT TO THE PEOPLE WHO DIED THANKS TO YOUR WAR. BESIDES THIS IS HARDLY TORTURE.
HOLD STILL, VARGAS. I DON'T WANT TO PRICK YOU...
THERE. YOU CAN LET HIM GO NOW, MARDEN.
SUDDENLY...
RAAA!
VARGAS LUNGES AT REEMI! BUT SHE ISN'T ALARMED...
SO THE BROOCHES WORK LIKE THE SOUL LINKER SAID THEY WOULD.
MAYBE HE ISN'T CRAZY AFTER ALL.
OH, DAL IS CRAZY, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, BUT HE'S GOOD AT WHAT HE DOES.
HLK! W-WHAT'S... H-HAPPENING TO ME...?
AS LONG AS YOU'RE WEARING THAT BROOCH, AND I'M WEARING THIS ONE...
YOU CANNOT HARM ME AND YOU MUST OBEY MY COMMANDS.
YOU CAN'T REMOVE THE BROOCH, OF COURSE. ONLY I CAN.
SORRY ABOUT THAT, VARGAS. I JUST DON'T TRUST YOU. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.
HERE'S THE DEAL.
I'M LISTENING, MARDEN.
SINCE YOU'VE BEEN TO THANATOS TOWER, YOU WILL LEAD US TO IT AND THROUGH IT, UNTIL WE RESCUE THE VALKYRIE.
IF YOU SURVIVE, YOU GAIN YOUR FREEDOM.
SINCE YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, HOW CAN I REFUSE?
EXACTLY.
Story by: Mark Navarro
Art by: Jhomar Soriano & Aldin Viray
TO BE CONTINUED.

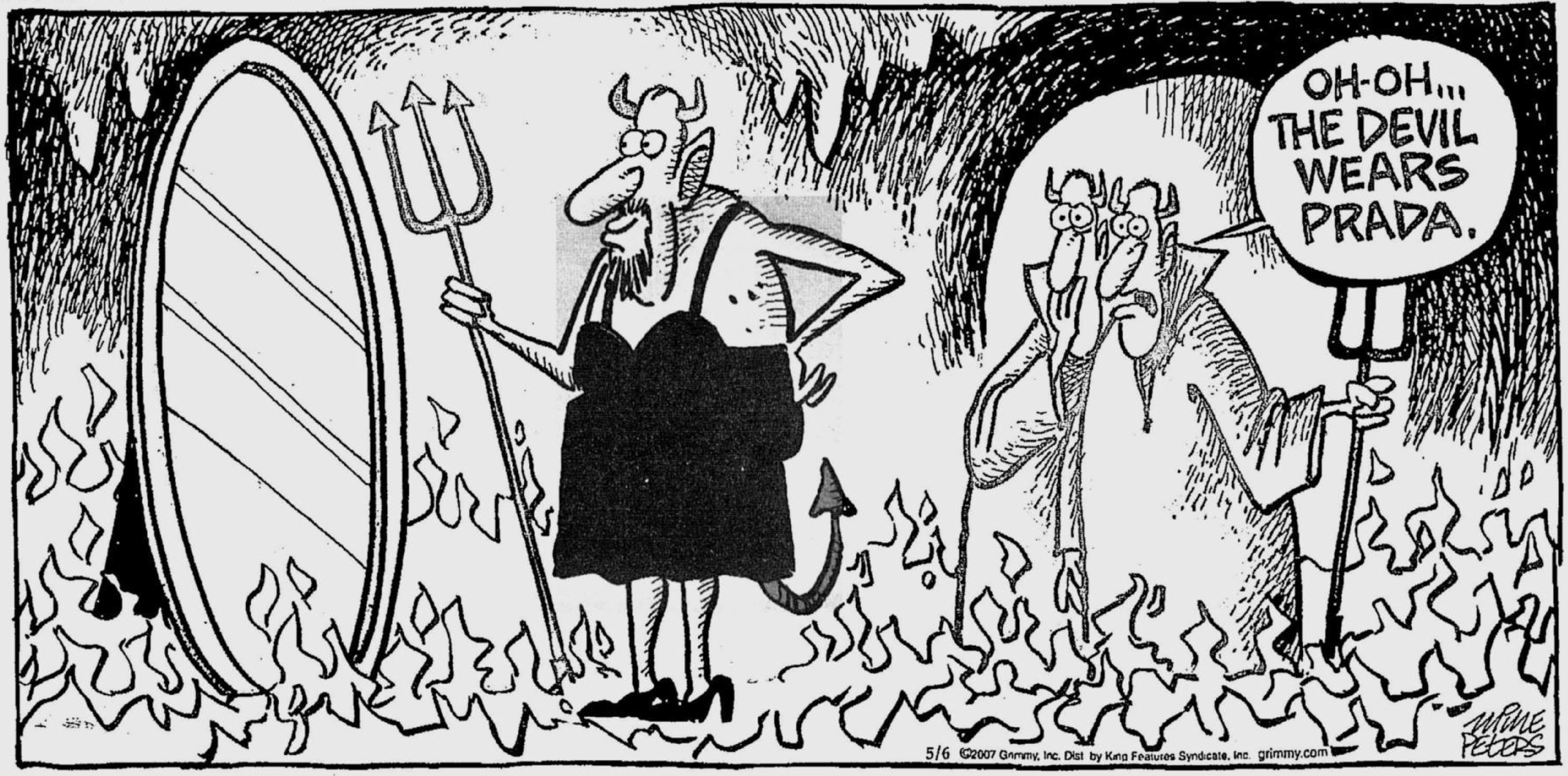
## PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


BAKIT BA LAGI TAYONG NASA TSISMIS PROGRAMS NA WALANG GINAWA KUNDI MAKIALAM SA BUHAY NG MAY BUHAY ??
MAKAKAPULOT BA TAYO D'YAN NG KAALAMAN NA MAGAGAMIT NATIN SA TUNAY NA BUHAY ?
DI BA DAPAT E NEWS PROGRAMS ANG PAGKA-ABALAHAN NATIN ?
POL 05MAY07
MAS MAY PRAKTIKAL NA APPLICATION ANG MALAMAN NATIN ANG LAGAY NG EKONOMIYA KESA SA LAGAY NG BUHAY-PAG-IBIG NG MGA ARTISTA !
SASABIHIN KO SA 'YO KUNG BAKIT ...
TIGNAN MO 'YUNG SPONSORS NG TSISMIS PROGRAM KO : LOAD NG CELPHONE, BEAUTY PRODUCTS, SPORT SHOES, SHAMPOO, JUNK FOOD...
TIGNAN MO NAMAN 'YUNG SPONSORS NG NEWS PROGRAM MO : SABONG PANLABA, ADULT MILK FORMULA, GAMOT SA RAYUMA, KAPE, VITAMINS...
SA TINGIN MO E ALIN 'YUNG PROGRAMA NG MGA BATANG MASAYA SA BUHAY AT PROGRAMA NG MGA CORNY AT MASUSUNGIT NA MATANDA ?
AT NGAYON, ANG LATEST KILA KRIS AT JAMES ...
♪ UUUUUY ♪
IN DENIAL SYA ... ♪

## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OH-OH... THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA.
MIKE PETERS

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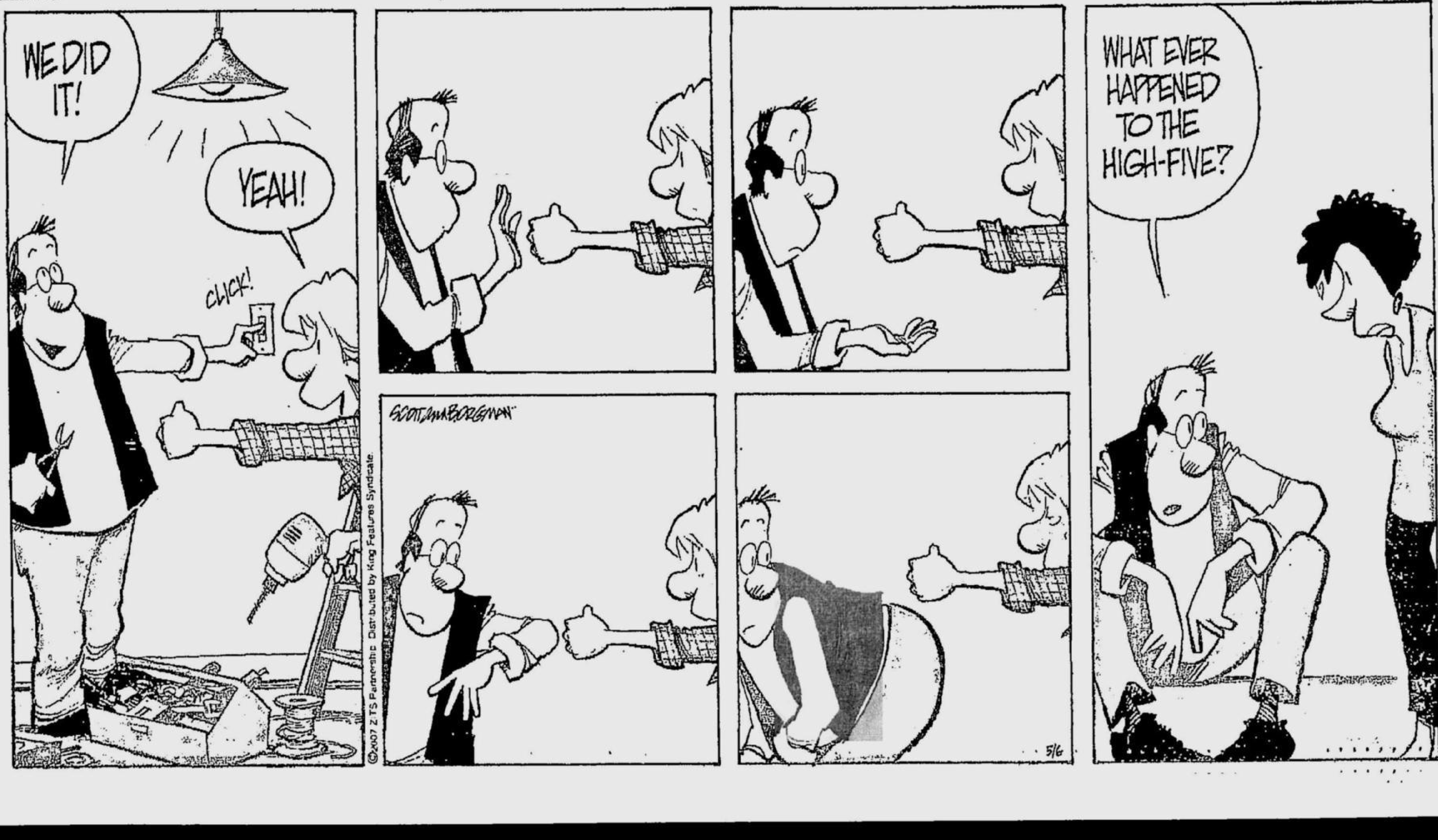
## ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


WE DID IT!
YEAH!
CLICK!
SCOTT AND BORGMAN
WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE HIGH-FIVE?
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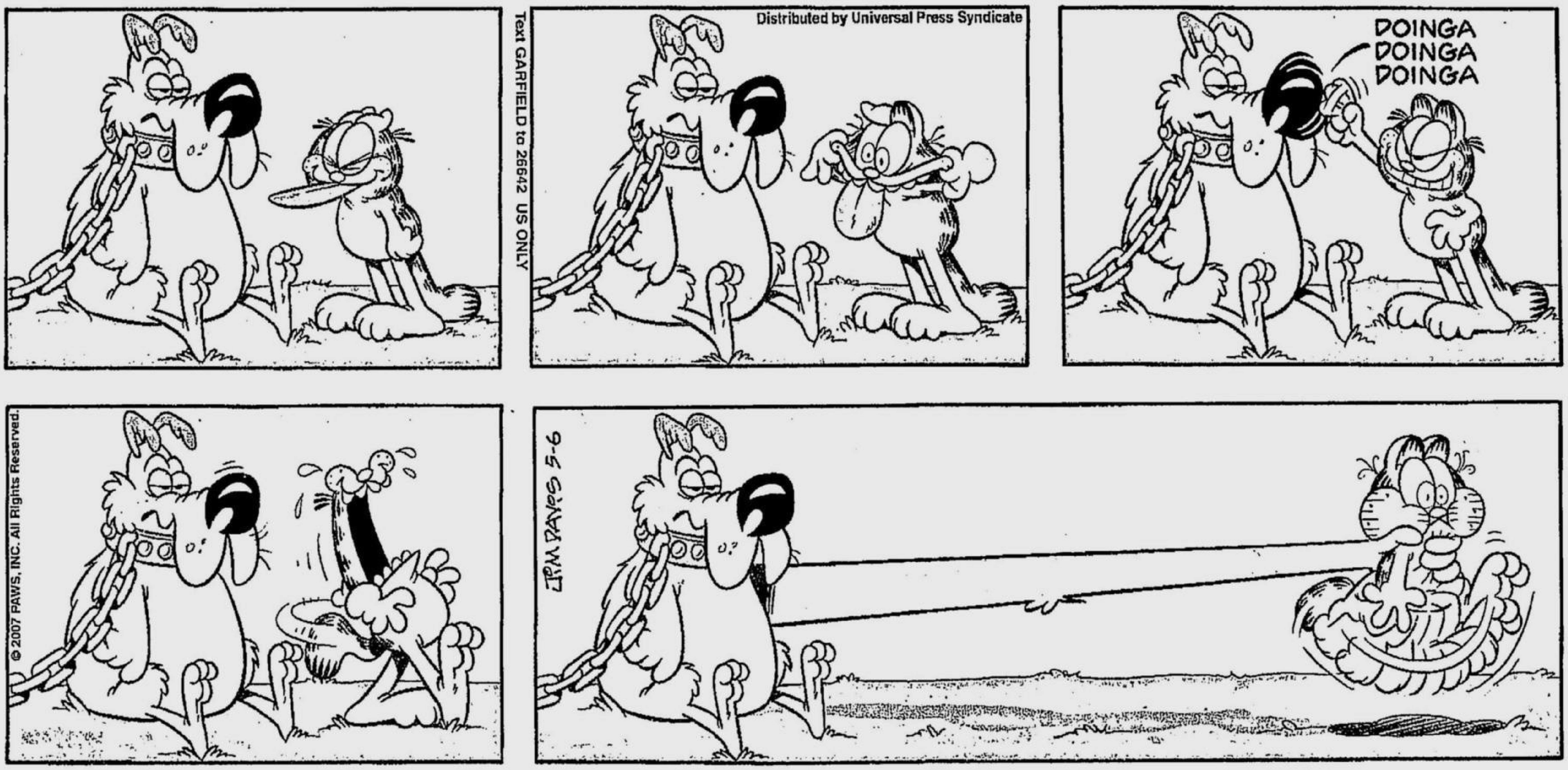
## GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


DOINGA
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JIM DAVIS 5-6
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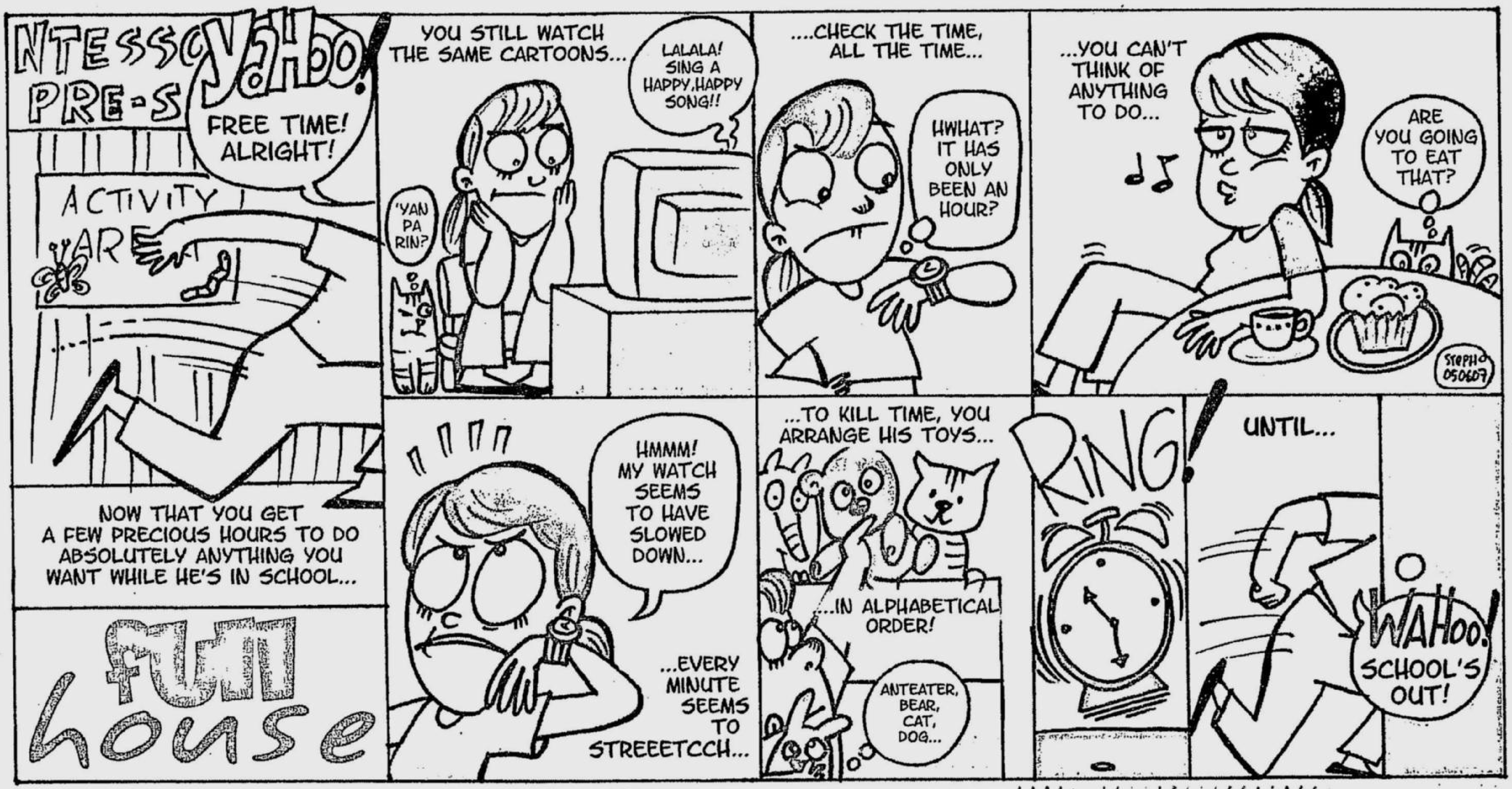
## FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


NTESSO
PRE-S
ACTIVITY
ARE
YAHOO!
FREE TIME! ALRIGHT!
NOW THAT YOU GET A FEW PRECIOUS HOURS TO DO ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING YOU WANT WHILE HE'S IN SCHOOL...
full house
YOU STILL WATCH THE SAME CARTOONS...
LALALA! SING A HAPPY, HAPPY SONG!!
'YAN PA RIN?
....CHECK THE TIME, ALL THE TIME...
HWHAT? IT HAS ONLY BEEN AN HOUR?
...YOU CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO DO...
ARE YOU GOING TO EAT THAT?
STEPH 050607
HMMM! MY WATCH SEEMS TO HAVE SLOWED DOWN...
...EVERY MINUTE SEEMS TO STREEETCCH...
...TO KILL TIME, YOU ARRANGE HIS TOYS...
...IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER!
ANTEATER, BEAR, CAT, DOG...
RING!
UNTIL...
WAHOO! SCHOOL'S OUT!

# TOY KINGDOM SHOWCASES SPIDER-MAN 3 COLLECTIBLES

Every hero has a choice: *To face the darkness, or be consumed by it.* This May, the greatest battle lies within!

A complex web of secrets, vengeance, love and forgiveness, ***Spider-Man 3*** – the third installment in a series of blockbuster films based on the Marvel comics superhero – is a riveting adventure that has been transporting Philippine audiences to thrilling new heights since it started screening on May 1.

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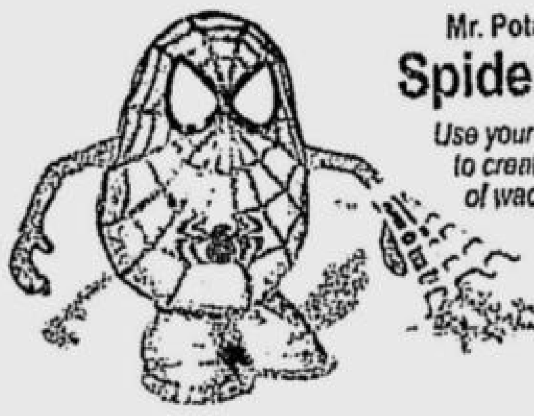

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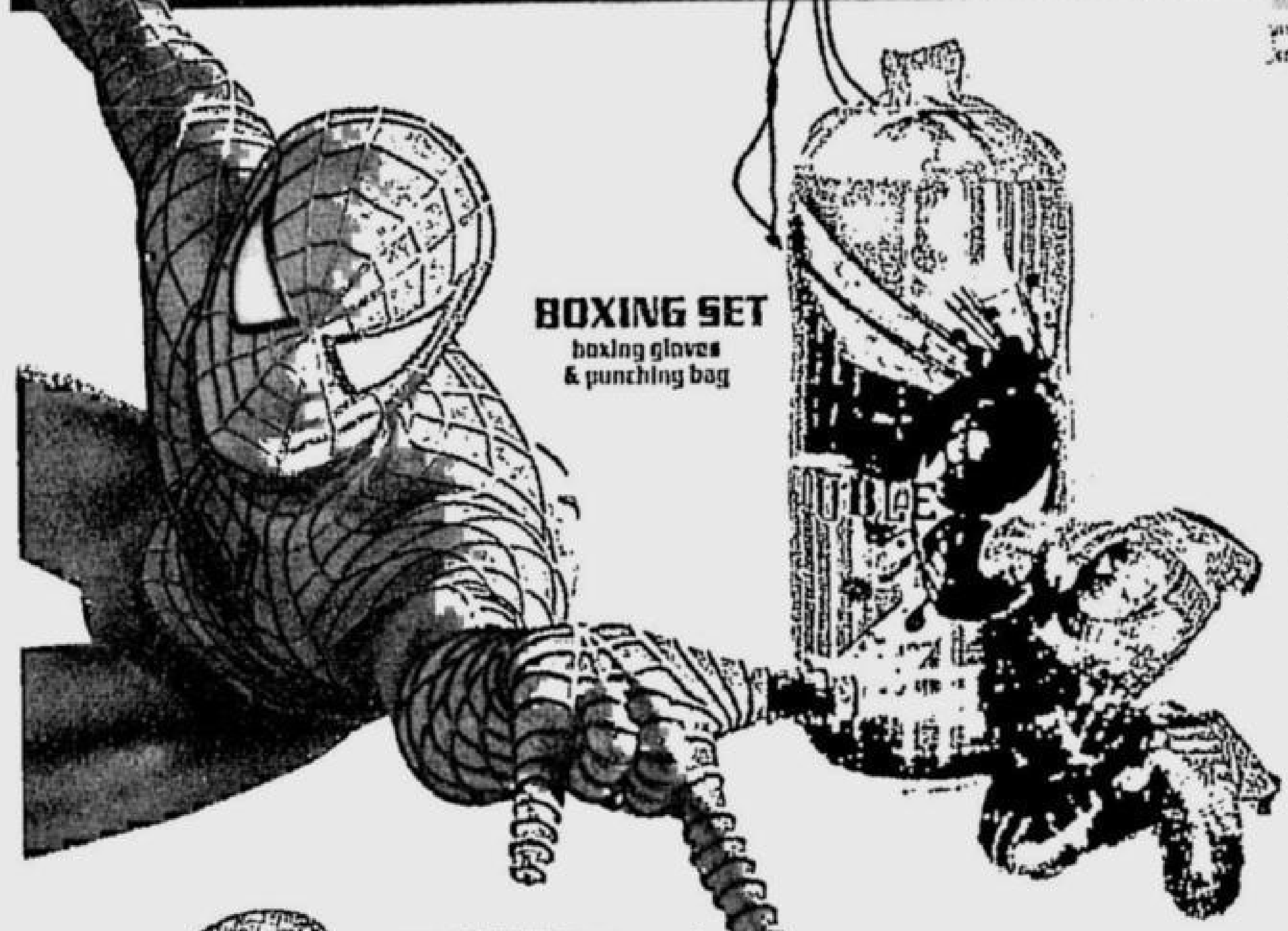

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May 6, 2007

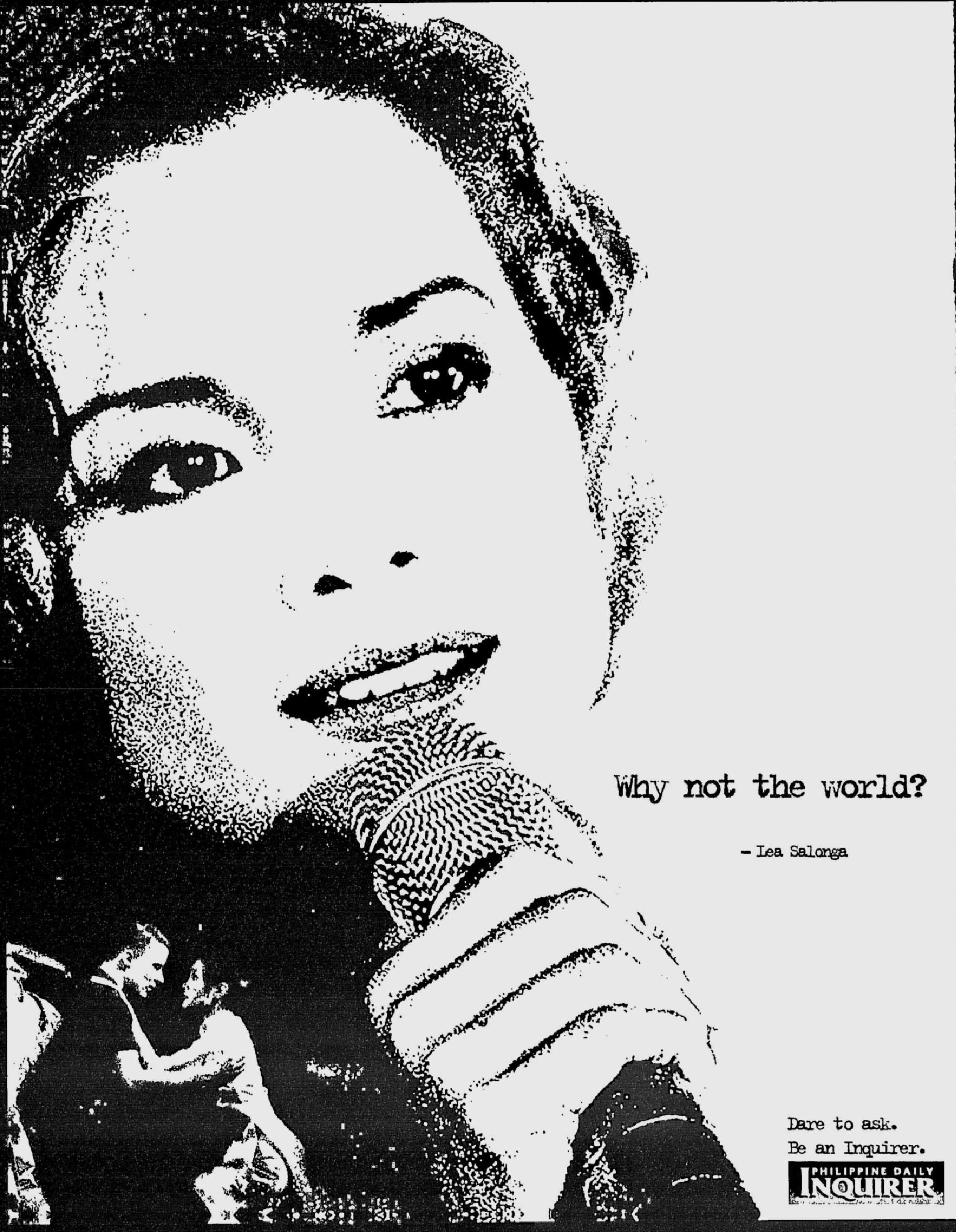
FREE

Accenture's Beth Lui

# She's The Boss

plus

Women and Money • Working From Home • Sound Financial Advice • More!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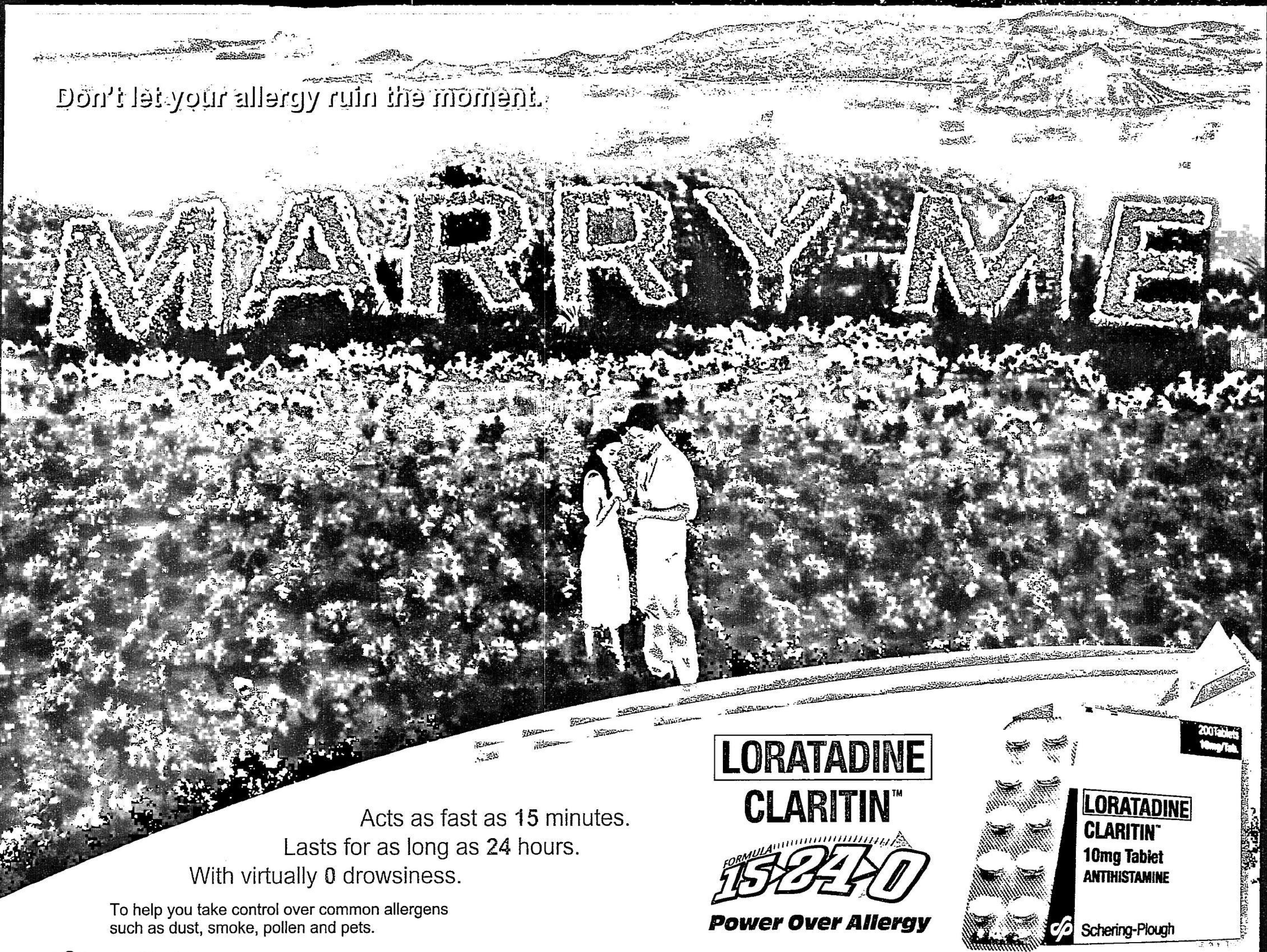
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By Leica R. Carpo

# Credit Where It's Due

## Thinking about taking care of your credit rating? **SIM** gets the scoop from a fund manager

MAKING money is one thing. Translating one's monthly earnings into a serious asset equivalent to a "credit-worthy" status in a bank is arguably a whole other level of expertise. Being able to balance one's checkbook and not going over one's budget is a good start. But for a true reality check on one's financial investment skills, try getting a loan from your local bank. Nothing is guaranteed to give you a better wake-up call on your net worth than your bank's harsh evaluation of your ability to repay the said loan.

Most banks determine good credit standing through the six Cs: high paying **capacity**, unblemished **character, collateral, capital, credit** history and **condition** of borrower. Throw in the state of the economy, and it's a tough list to master. Lack any one of the above and they will consider you a "liability." Attaining good credit rating is very much a "chicken-and-egg situation", since banks don't normally loan out money to people unless they have enough chickens as collateral. Without a sizeable nest egg to begin with, one is quite literally left without a feather to fly with. So how does one gather enough eggs for one's basket? For a minimal percentage of your investment, consider hiring a professional fund manager—possibly the smartest, fastest, safest way to start collecting those chickens, or is it eggs first.

**Roa: Confidence in each other is key**

In terms of financial worth, cash may be king; but having good credit can definitely be considered queen. We asked financial expert, Karen Roa, president and CEO of Philam Asset Management Inc., to share some tips on how to make our hard-earned dough grow.

Roa has given financial advice for amounts as low as P5,000 to billions of pesos worth. With 17 years of financial services tucked under her belt, a business degree from the Ateneo de Manila University, and an MBA from Fordham University, she has this to share on how we can all get better credit, and hopefully, someday soon, retire rich:

**1. What are the basic steps in establishing good credit?**
In any setting, be it formal or informal, the basic tenet of credit is confidence of one to another. Hence, good credit can only be established if there is integrity and trustworthiness. These need to be evidenced through track record, paying capacity, character reference and, at times, strength of collateral or a guarantee.

**2. Can you give three sample investment options (conservative, mid, risky)?**
There are several simple investment options available to an investor, depending on their profile, which would include liquidity and risk appetite, among others. One must remember, however, the relationship between risk and return: the higher the risk, the higher the return; and conversely, the lower the risk, the lower the return. Liquid investment options or assets that are easily convertible to cash would include securities, such as government bonds and government indebtedness. Companies from time to time issue debt securities in the form of commercial papers, which are also eligible investment options, but the investors will need to clearly understand if these companies can pay these securities as they fall due.

**3. How much money does one need to start a decent portfolio?**
Mutual funds allow you to participate in a portfolio which is aligned with your return objective, i.e. conservative, moderate and aggressive. It is managed by a professional fund manager, which provides for active monitoring and diversification. It provides for liquidity, and returns generated by the entire fund are pro-rated among the participants. Hence, it is the most efficient and effective means of investing. The minimum amount of investment into a mutual fund is as low as P5,000!

**4. How does one find the right bank, broker, investment person to work with?**
Strength, stability and reputation are critical in selecting the right partner, be for marriage or for financial advise and management. Sometimes the choice may be even more more crucial for a financial adviser than a spouse! Seriously though, while highest returns and yields are targets when investing, when managing our retirement funds and funds intended for the future of our children, I believe capital preservation is key.

**5. What are good investment opportunities to watch out for?**
For small investors going into direct investments, who believe they're better than professional fund managers, there are the retail treasury bonds and SDTs for fixed income, and there is the stock market for equities. For high net worth clients, there are much more sophisticated and exotic products out there.

**6. Best investment advice.**
If it's too good to be true, then it usually is (hence: farfetched!).

**7. How does one bounce back after a big investment loss?**
The best response is to chalk it down to experience and build up your portfolio again.

**8. What about when one wins big?**
Realize gain—and reinvest. •

Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

# The Simple Life

## Bansud, Mindoro holds many a culinary temptation for this relocated city dweller

**Cooking the bibingka-cassava cake**

I HAVE been in a beautiful province that is a RORO (a Roll-On, Roll-Off ferry) away—the hometown of my late grandmother Sally Cuadra Salcedo, the town of Bansud, Oriental Mindoro. One of the things she passed on to me was her love for this province. In the ICU after her heart attack in 2004, she was still murmuring "Mindoro..." and in the hospital, when my mom asked her to describe it, she said that it was paradise. And if you come here, you will realize that it truly is. Everything here is so simple, almost backward (some places don't even have electricity) that nature's beauty is not only highlighted but shines. I hope, with this column, to make people realize that there is so much to appreciate about a farmer's life, usually taken for granted by ignorant (former) city dwellers like myself.

First to highlight about a farmer's life is one's proximity to nature. No matter what brilliance is poured into architecture or art, nothing can ever beat the beauty of Mother Nature. To me, anyway. Maybe it's the Sag in me. But nature really takes my breath away. In Mindoro, the day skies are a picture perfect blue and the midnight sky is full of stars. It boasts of amazing black sand beaches but also, the road from Calapan to Bansud gives you a view of yet untouched mountains: green and alive, they almost speak to you, making me understand why our ancestors used to worship nature and hide in terror when they thought they had sparked Bathala's ire.

Second, because of its proximity to nature, there is the freshness of produce. Circling the farm we came across a man weaving his own fishing net! How cool is that? That afternoon I had a unique kind of fish called *baga-ong*, cooked simply in vinegar (*pinaksiw*). I loved it. It was a pleasant relief from the usual tuna, salmon and *tanguige* we have in restaurants in the city. Really, it was a small, simple fish, practically like *galunggong*, but slightly bigger, slightly softer, and tastier.

After our simple lunch of *baga-ong* and rice, I watched Beth, a farmer's wife, make *bibingka*-cassava cake from scratch. Now in the Philippines there are many variations to this delicacy. In my maternal grandmother's province, Bulacan, *bibingka malagkit*, as they would call it, is rice-based. It is a delicacy that is totally separate from the cassava cake, which, as its name implies, is made of cassava. This is further differentiated from the more common *bibingka galapong,* that yellow pancake-like delicacy which Via Mare is very well known for. In Mindoro, the *bibingka* and cassava delicacies are combined, and they call it *bibingka*-cassava.

To indulge me and my mom, as we insisted to watch the *bibingka*-cassava made from scratch, Beth got *kamoteng kahoy* or cassava and expertly peeled off the skin with a knife (looked like a machete to me!). She passed the peeled cassava to *Ka* Lucy (*ka* here is a term of endearment for the elderly, like "miss" or "madame" or "sir"), who then grated it (or what they call "*gadgad")*. Then Beth got a coconut, again expertly broke it in two with her machete (I should call her the machete queen), got the juice and put it aside for later, then grated the meat. When *Ka* Lucy was done with the cassava, Beth put the cassava meat *(ginadgad na kamoteng kahoy*) into a cheesecloth (or *katya/kacha* —there are no spelling rules in this province!) to squeeze out the juice. The purpose of this is to take out the bitterness. This meat then became the dough.

**Beth prepares the ingredients**

The coconut juice was then poured onto the cassava dough for added taste, along with around a half cup of brown sugar and a teaspoon of salt (no measuring cups here!). Everything was mixed and kneaded in a bowl by hand (no Kitchenaide either!). After mixing, the dough was placed on a banana leaf (how country is that!) atop a plate, made into the shape of a pie and then transferred into a *kawali* that was later placed on the make-shift oven for "baking."

Now the makeshift oven is the really funky/cool bit. Sure, they used a lighter to spark the fire but instead of fire atop the wok, as would be the case for a regular oven, they put a simple steel board to cover the *kalan*, which they covered afterward with coconut husks. To make sure that the *bibingka* inside wasn't burning, we would peek every now and then under the steel plate.

The result? Camarelized cassava cake. Twelve dollars at Pastis, New York City—in Bansud? As Sam Cooke said, the best things in life are free! •

By Cora Llamas

# At Home, At Work

Office space isn't for everyone. Here is a rundown of the jobs you can hold down from your own home

**If the 9-to-5 life isn't for you, there are other options**

THE COMFORTABLE bedroom or snappy living room that doubles as an office. Your own choice of working hours without a boss to keep you in line.

Home-based jobs do sound ideal, but there are trade-offs. In place of the superior who perennially peers over your shoulder are a dozen other clients, whom you have to squeeze into your too-tight schedule. The absence of a 9-to-5 schedule is otherwise filled by all-nighters in order to meet a deadline. Without an office infrastructure, you'd have to invest in your own equipment, beginning with the indispensable PC.

Finally, you'd need the 3Ds in order to survive: discipline, dedication, and determination. Plus, without a stable 15/30 salary, you'd have to be your own boss, financier, accounting clerk, messenger, and cheerleader all rolled into one.

Rowena Cuyco, a financial planner who put up her own financial management services company this year, says that resilience and inner discipline are the keys to her success. "You need lots of patience and always have to be optimistic, because if you get turned down by a client, you can't lose enthusiasm—you always have to look forward."

Educating a client on pension plans, insurance packages, and creating their own personal financial map to ensure their future also requires excellent communication skills, a mind for business, and the ability to project the different scenarios that can affect long-range plans and equally cherished dreams.

Cuyco gives one example: "There's this newly-married couple who are both doctors. They don't have a house, but live in a condo. In two years' time, they plan to start a family, and they want to have their own home in a village in five years' time. We look at their present income and assets, and work with that to reach their goal. I give them a 12-18 page plan. Like a doctor with regular consultations, we meet every year to see if they are meeting their targets. What if someone lost a job or their income changed? We make the necessary adjustments to see that they are still on track as far as their goal is concerned."

To get a basic grounding in her business, Cuyco studied courses in Financial Planning, Marketing, Sales, and other business subjects. To launch her private enterprise, she acquired her own office set-up, which includes an Internet-wired computer, a fax machine, and a filing system. "What's important are the files, which are very confidential," Cuyco discloses. "I deal with matters of life. And it's a good thing that the files are at home. If something happens, even in the middle of the night, I can easily dig up the necessary file."

Cuyco's hours are basically flexible: she sets her own time with her clients, reports to the companies she is affiliated with once a week, and still enjoys working out at the gym or bonding with her family.

The net income of a financial planner depends on her diligence. The more clients she services, the greater the commission she receives. Without disclosing figures, Cuyco echoes the statement of one extremely successful colleague that what he earns is "higher than that of the CEO."

Still, Cuyco chooses not to rest on her laurels. "You always have to work on expanding your client base, because clients may like your product this year, but then the next year they may not."

Monica Climaco, ex-freelancer and now web developer of Ivantage, gives the following tips to colleagues in the industry who would rather be self-employed: "You have to be very motivated, and take the initiative to learn new things. Don't depend on what you've learned in school and from books because that can be limiting. You need to be creative to learn how, and to get things done. Don't be afraid to make mistakes or to take on larger projects. Some of my friends were not afraid to take on the challenging stuff and dove right into it. They'd ask support from the online communities of web developers and ask how [to do certain tasks]."

This proactive approach becomes more important in light of the fact that, unlike employed developers who have access to the resources of the larger companies and are privy to the latest trends and developments, freelancers find that most of their clients are small businesses that may not be part of the same cutting-edge loop.

"Big businesses still go to the large web developers because their demands can be unrealistic," shares Climaco. "They may want a project done in a month, and a big company can meet that demand by dividing the work among several employees. But if you're a freelancer, you'd do it alone and be a jack of all trades who handles projects all by yourself."

On top of that, you'd have to be your own marketing division, looking for the next client, and your own collection agent, knocking on accountant's windows to get payment.

The amount given for each project depends on the complexity of the work. A fresh graduate can charge P10,000-P20,000 for a

(continued on page 9)

By Julie M. Aurelio

# The Nephew Also Rises

In leading the charge to provide funding for marginalized women through former President Cory Aquino's PinoyME, Rapa Lopa seeks to return power to the people—and living up to his aunt's example

IN A small house with a low ceiling,30 *nanays* meet together once a week to share their stories—of how their *sari-sari* store is faring, or how the little *carinderia* has helped the family budget. For over an hour, the *nanays* discuss money matters with the loan officer from the microfinance institution, from which some of them have been able to avail of small loans for their store or *carinderia*.

Rafael "Rapa" Lopa sits in a corner, watching as the hopeful women engage in prayer—before getting down to business, literally. Though he does not carry his aunt's popular surname, Rapa knows how daunting it is to live in former President Corazon Aquino's shadow.

After all, he has served as his aunt's executive assistant since 1993, helping and representing Aquino in her work for non-governmental organizations. His mother, the late Teresita Cojuangco-Lopa, was Aquino's elder sister. But Rapa is quick to point out that he is not exactly the former President's alter ego.

Jim Guiao Punzalan

**Lopa: There's a mechanism for the poor to participate**

"I'm an extension of what she hopes she will be able to do. I cannot be an alter ego to a person like that. *Masyado akong malayo sa kanya*," the nephew insists during the interview. In Aquino's latest project aiming to uplift the country's small entrepreneurs through microfinancing, Rapa was tapped by his aunt to be part of PinoyME's steering committee.

Clad in faded jeans and a white Nike shirt, the 43-year-old father of three could easily pass for an ordinary workingman himself, and not a member of the Cojuangco clan. Throughout the interview, he makes it a point to refer to his aunt as "Mrs. Aquino."

Last year, on the 20th anniversary of EDSA 1, Aquino convened the social consortium, aiming to reduce poverty by harnessing a new kind of "people power" to help small entrepreneurs put up their own businesses.

PinoyME, short for Filipino Micro-Enterprise, aims to raise P5 billion to enable microfinance institutions (MFIs) to lend "micro-loans" to five million small entrepreneurs, mostly women and housewives, in five years. To do this, PinoyME and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) launched the Social Investment Fund (SIF), where banks, development financing institutions, and members of the business community can invest their money to reach the P5 billion target.

The 5-5-5 goal is not arbitrary. Rapa says there are approximately five million families that live below the poverty level, and only two million are being serviced by the country's MFIs. In five years, they hope to raise P5 billion, and perhaps reach out to the other three million families in need of small and easy-to-pay loans for little businesses like *sari-sari* stores and *carinderias*.

Among the MFIs to benefit from PinoyME's five-year goal are the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, Tulay sa Pag-unlad Inc., Center for Community Transformation, and the ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation. With the P5 billion that PinoyME plans to come up with by 2011, the MFIs will be able to reach out to the other housewives wanting to earn a living for their families.

Rapa says that in the first year of PinoyME, they had accumulated about P50 million in pledges. MFIs offer loans as low as P5,000 to as high as P150,000, payable in six months.

Rapa is quick to point out that microfinance is not the "magic bullet" against poverty, but at the very least, PinoyME hopes to uplift people's lives by providing them with income-generating and livelihood opportunities."We're just saying that there's this mechanism that will enable poor people to be engaged or involved in economic activity," he explains.

During meetings with the housewives and loan officers of MFIs, the hope is infectious and everyone is in high spirits. "Once, on the way home in the car, Mrs. Aquino told me, 'You cannot imagine the kind of hope these people have despite the conditions that they are in,'" Rapa shares. "They always reply, '*Masaya naman po kami, salamat sa Diyos*.' It takes very little to make these people happy and more hopeful about the future," he adds. "The whole essence of 'people power' is people sacrificing for others. It is not asking 'what's in it for me', but 'what's in it for the other person,'" he says.

Since graduating from the Ateneo in 1985, Rapa has lived by this creed, landing

(continued on page 9)

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz and Ruel S. De Vera

# She's The Boss

For Accenture Country Managing Director Beth Lui, balance and dedication are the keys to climbing the corporate and personal ladders of success

Eddie Boy Escudero

IT HAS not been easy getting there, but Beth G. Lui sits confidently in the seat of leadership. The Country Managing Director (CMD) for Accenture Delivery Center in the Philippines, Lui is the top woman in a company that counts over 11,000 employees staffing its Philippine operations.

"In the Philippines, Accenture operates primarily as a delivery center and focuses on technology and outsourcing," Lui explains, adding that they provide clients "with a full range of strategic front-end to back-end outsourcing services." For Lui, who holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce majoring in Accounting, the path to Accenture was not an obvious one because she had no training in information technology. "It was by chance that I entered the IT career track," she says. "I started with the audit division of the former Arthur Andersen and was offered to join the Management Consulting Division."

"When I started, I never told myself that 'I will be the CMD of this firm someday,'" Lui recalls. "I just took each challenge one day at a time. So I gradually moved up the ranks—from a software developer to designer, team manager, project manager, and senior executive." What she does is not for the faint of heart. As CMD, she is overall in charge of Accenture's local operations. That makes her a vital link in Accenture's global super structure as a network of 150,000 people in 49 countries. The company, formerly known as Andersen Consulting, changed its name in 2001 to differentiate it from the audit firm, Arthur Andersen, which it used to be part of.

It's more than just a semantic shift, Lui clarifies. "The name 'Accenture' springs from 'accent on the future'—which appropriately describes the vision and the culture of our firm."

An eye to the future is something that Lui possesses, being one of the most powerful women—and persons, period—in the industry. "I believe that gender is not an issue in this type of work and especially in this organization," she says. "We value diversity and promote an inclusive, collaborative and entrepreneurial environment where people use teamwork, respect and trust to achieve their goals. We want to capitalize on the talent and potential of all our people."

As far as her management style is concerned, Lui says it's a matter of finding the right approach to the right task: "I delegate when I feel the person is ready to accept greater responsibility. I am hands-on if I feel that my guidance is still needed. I can be quite strong in espousing certain views, but I also listen to other people's insights. I am open to new ideas. I do not stand in the way of getting things done faster and better."

All this keeps Lui constantly on the move, but she realizes the value of balance in her life. "I try to have pockets of nights-off, going to the gym or hitting the treadmill at home," she says. "I enjoy traveling to different places, exploring cities and culture. I also like continuing education on non-work related areas, like playing the piano."

But focus is a quality that she considers essential to her life, whether at home or at the office: "You have to set your priorities straight and try to work around it. When I'm at work, I am one hundred percent with my work. When I'm out of work, I don't think about work. This way, each moment is spent as it should be."

Even in the middle of her extremely busy days, Lui has new goals for Accenture. "Professionally, I look forward to Manila becoming a globally preferred location for IT and business process outsourcing," she says. "I don't think this is far from happening. My dream is to see Accenture in the Philippines continue to make significant contributions to the outsourcing industry and to the Philippine economy."

Being a woman on top has also left her with a valuable perspective as far as job performance is concerned. "There is no sure route or magic formula to success," Beth Lui says. "When I started my career, my manager at that time told me that in order to stand out, I should strive to be the best. I would pass on the same advice to women who want to pursue a career." •

**The Nephew Also Rises** (from page 7)

his first job with Sariling Sikap, Inc., a small NGO working with farmers and fisherfolk. He stayed with the group for nine years, only taking a break to campaign for his aunt in her presidential bid in 1986. Having been given so much, there is so much to give back, he says.

"Since after college, I've always felt that I really need to give back. I guess Ateneo is partly to blame for this. The teachers I encountered from high school all the way to college impressed upon me this whole man-for-others thing," Rapa smiles ruefully. He names his teacher, Onofre Pagsanghan, and moderator Fr. Tito Caluag as the two mentors who made him appreciate the importance of a spiritual life during his 14-year stay at the Ateneo.

Rapa also credits his late parents, Teresita and Ricardo Lopa, for having raised him well. "I've been blessed with really fantastic parents. I have to give it to them, we were nine in the family!" he laughs. He is the eighth child in the Lopa brood. Rapa, husband to college sweetheart Didi, says he was made to understand the value of hard work and helping others despite growing up rich. "I think I haven't given back enough, but anyway *habang buhay pa naman ito eh*," he shrugs.

And as his Tita Cory's executive assistant, Rapa will continue to get people to invest in PinoyME on her behalf. It's a task that he knows he couldn't do without "that Cory magic."

"If Rapa Lopa goes out and says, 'I am the head of PinoyME,' *sino naman ang makikinig sa akin*? But then it's her (Aquino)—and people gravitate around her," he shares candidly. He still wonders what he did in his younger years to deserve the honor of representing Cory Aquino, other than being her nephew, that is. If he had his way, he would continue to be his aunt's assistant and not the main man on stage. His aunt's shadow provides the perfect cover. "It's perfectly fine with me, I'd rather work behind the scenes and be inconspicuous, because at the end of the day, *siya lang naman ang makakagawa nito, eh* (she's the only one who can do this). I can only just represent her," he says. •

**At Home, At Work** (from page 6)

relatively simple corporate website that does not require e-commerce programming. Customizing a website to perform accounting, inventory, and transactions for a company's specific needs can net P100,000 per project.

Yet Climaco cautions, "That P100,000 per project is an exception, though, and it could eat up your time for eight months. Most of the time, as a freelancer, I worked at nights."

Freelance writing for blogs and corporate websites pays Mel Panabi's bills, and allows him to spend more time with his family—the one reason why he decided to "take the road less traveled by most men."

"Life is too short to really give my precious time to other people when I know that my wife and son deserve so much more of my attention and time," he explains.

While the average income is comfortable (P30,000-P50,000 a month) and is achievable for the industrious writer, Panabi admits that an unprepared freelancer can find the hours "insane if you do not know how to budget your time. One of the biggest mistakes I made initially was not giving a set time for work and for family. Each one intermingled as the situation called for it, which is not how you should operate in a work-at-home environment. The key is to set a time for each—just like going to the office. In my line of work I am constantly subject to deadlines as well as deliverables."

Courses are not a requirement for this kind of job (Panabi is not a Communications graduate). What's important are the skills and the ability to meet deadlines. And what are non-negotiable are a computer at home and a fast internet connection that you can use for research even during the so-called clogged hours.

The home-office set-up also requires that everyone at home must recognize the thin line that separates personal and professional time. Panabi shares, "There are so many distractions that can affect your ability to be productive—the TV, your child, household responsibilities. You and the people in the house should realize that even though you stay home, you are still working and clocking the hours. One of my biggest challenges is taking care of my son while working. The other adults in my house still get this idea that they can just leave my son with me when I am working and expect me to churn out articles while my attention is divided. It is still a struggle that I have to go through to this day, and sometimes, my work suffers because of it."

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## Figure It Out

**$160 million**: Net worth of Beatrice Campos, wealthiest Filipino woman

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**P165**: Minimum wage in NCR in 1996

**Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research**

### The Nephew Also Rises (from page 7

his first job with Sariling Sikap, Inc., a small NGO working with farmers and fisherfolk. He stayed with the group for nine years, only taking a break to campaign for his aunt in her presidential bid in 1986. Having been given so much, there is so much to give back, he says.

"Since after college, I've always felt that I really need to give back. I guess Ateneo is partly to blame for this. The teachers I encountered from high school all the way to college impressed upon me this whole man-for-others thing," Rapa smiles ruefully. He names his teacher, Onofre Pagsanghan, and moderator Fr. Tito Caluag as the two mentors who made him appreciate the importance of a spiritual life during his 14-year stay at the Ateneo.

Rapa also credits his late parents, Teresita and Ricardo Lopa, for having raised him well. "I've been blessed with really fantastic parents. I have to give it to them, we were nine in the family!" he laughs. He is the eighth child in the Lopa brood. Rapa, husband to college sweetheart Didi, says he was made to understand the value of hard work and helping others despite growing up rich. "I think I haven't given back enough, but anyway *habang buhay pa naman ito eh*," he shrugs.

And as his Tita Cory's executive assistant, Rapa will continue to get people to invest in PinoyME on her behalf. It's a task that he knows he couldn't do without "that Cory magic."

"If Rapa Lopa goes out and says, 'I am the head of PinoyME,' *sino naman ang makikinig sa akin*? But then it's her (Aquino)—and people gravitate around her," he shares candidly. He still wonders what he did in his younger years to deserve the honor of representing Cory Aquino, other than being her nephew, that is. If he had his way, he would continue to be his aunt's assistant and not the main man on stage. His aunt's shadow provides the perfect cover. "It's perfectly fine with me, I'd rather work behind the scenes and be inconspicuous, because at the end of the day, *siya lang naman ang makakagawa nito, eh* (she's the only one who can do this). I can only just represent her," he says. •

### At Home, At Work (from page 6)

relatively simple corporate website that does not require e-commerce programming. Customizing a website to perform accounting, inventory, and transactions for a company's specific needs can net P100,000 per project.

Yet Climaco cautions, "That P100,000 per project is an exception, though, and it could eat up your time for eight months. Most of the time, as a freelancer, I worked at nights."

Freelance writing for blogs and corporate websites pays Mel Panabi's bills, and allows him to spend more time with his family—the one reason why he decided to "take the road less traveled by most men."

"Life is too short to really give my precious time to other people when I know that my wife and son deserve so much more of my attention and time," he explains.

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

# Starting Up Your Startup

Feel like unleashing your inner entrepreneur? Read on and pick up some helpful tips for getting your business off the ground

TIME was when putting up a business was an option open only to those who either have a lot of capital or have failed to land a job in the corporate world.

Those days are gone. These days, becoming an entrepreneur is as much a career option for women as working for multinationals or big names in the local business world.

Helping the entrepreneurship revolution along is the availability of funds and technical expertise to those willing to place a bet on their big, hairy and audacious idea.

Even universal and commercial banks, which used to cater mainly to the institutional borrowers, are seeing the value of lending to small and medium enterprises.

BPI Family Savings Bank, the consumer lending arm of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, for instance, has developed its "Show Me, Teach Me, SME!" to help improve the operations of small and medium enterprises.

Under the program, interested entrepreneurs are first given a half-day session on the basics of putting up and running a business.

BPI employee-volunteers then follow this up with a 90-day mentoring period where they give participants one-on-one coaching on financial and credit concepts.

**BPI Family Savings Bank has a program just for SMEs**

They then become partners in developing the business. Qualified to participate in the program are SMEs with an asset size of between P3 million and P15 million and a workforce of less than 100.

The "Show Me, Teach Me, SME!" program started in the middle of 2004 and has since been brought to Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Naga, Dagupan, Metro Manila and Batangas.

On the financial side, BPI Family Savings Bank has started to offer a loan with a fixed rate of 12 percent for five to 12 years to help SMEs manage their cash flows in a volatile market.

BPI Family Savings Bank President Alfonso Salcedo says qualified SMEs can avail of a maximum loan of P20 million to start or expand their business.

BPI Family Savings Bank has set aside a fund of P5 billion to finance its programs for SMEs, which account for 26 percent of BPI Family Bank's loan portfolio.

SB Corp., an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, is another potential source of funds, especially since it is mandated to support the growth of SMEs. Among its programs is SME-Guide, which allows DTI-endorsed SMEs involved in priority SME industry sectors to borrow as much as P5 million to either put up buildings, buy equipment or lots, or finance working capital requirements.

The program is open to Filipino-owned enterprises with an asset size of between P500,000 and P100 million. The company must have been in operation for at least a year with good financial results.

SB Corp. also has its SME-Force program, which allows entrepreneurs to borrow money to acquire franchises of accredited companies, such as those affiliated with the Association of Filipino Franchisors Inc.

Plantersbank, on the other hand, has been hailed as one of the leading forces in SME lending, with total loan portfolio placed at about P20 billion as of December last year.

It has available loan windows to provide entrepreneurs with working capital, funds to acquire a building or factory, and to get a letter of credit, and its officers are trained to deal with the specific needs of business owners, which are different from those of the big borrowers.

But perhaps more than the funds, what is driving the entrepreneurship revolution is the changing mindset among parents and academic institutions. The University of Asia and the Pacific, Assumption College, and the De La Salle University are just some of the universities that are offering entrepreneurship as a bachelor's degree.

Then there's the buzz created by the GoNegosyo series of Jose Ma. Concepcion III, named as the entrepreneurship champion of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The GoNegosyo exhibitions, which have revolved around topics such as micro-entrepreneurship and business opportunities for overseas Filipino workers, have succeeded in making entrepreneurship a top of mind choice for Filipinos looking for that extra peso.

Thus, for those who believe they have the next great idea, there has never been a better time than now to turn that vision into reality. •

By Maria Congee S. Gomez

# Making Money Matter

Two businesswomen recall the best advice they ever got

Romy Homillada

Capellan

August de la Cruz

Corpus

THROUGHOUT our lives, we receive countless bits of advice on money: how valuable it is, how to make the most of it, how to spend it, and so on. Two women in business remember just how they learned about the value of money.

**Teresa Cruz-Capellan**

Teresa Cruz-Capellan thinks about money matters this way: "Money is always there, but it is not endless or infinite. It is accessible; but you have to manage it well." Raised by a father who was a military officer and a mother who was a businesswoman, Capellan's disciplined outlook on money came at an early age, when any request for few pesos from her father had to be backed with good reason.

"Money was something not given to me liberally by my parents. They made sure the parameters or restrictions were in place." The numerous errands she did before she received the cash were her parents' way of teaching her how hard it was to earn money. Marrying at a young age threw her plans into disarray. She was forced to look for a scholarship at Maryknoll College (now Miriam College) so she could get a college degree. She then found even more grants to enable her to take up post-graduate studies at Harvard and Tufts University. This was no small feat for her—Capellan looks back to those days of being a young struggling homemaker, a political detainee, and a civil servant.

Being creative helped her find ways to make ends meet. Currently the program chief of the Alliance for Mindanao for Renewable Energy (Amore), Capellan is thankful for the rigorous orientation her parents subjected her to. For these days, her job requires her to be firm when deciding on how to allocate funds, networking with donor agencies, and evaluating her program's spending priorities. As one who has helped the government raise US$750-million for upland development, Capellan frowns on those who say the coffers were empty and there would be not much she could do.

"Lack of finances should never be a reason to stop working on your plans and goals. The opportunities are always available, but we need to have focus in order to fully make use of these opportunities," she says. "In the same vein, I always say poverty is not an excuse for not pursuing and fulfilling your dreams. There's got to be a way somewhere, for sure."

The best advice she ever got about money came from years of experience as an official occupying top posts: "Savings are necessarily good. But you have to invest it so it will grow. This is the basis of wealth-creation. Only though wealth can one lay claim to security in life, and obtain limitless purchasing power over the things you want to have," she says.

**Marilu Magsaysay Corpus**

Marilu Magsaysay Corpus fondly recalls telling members of the family, "*Bayad muna*" (pay me first) each time she was asked to do favors. "That was the start—I'd state the price and see to it that they complied," she recounts. "But I think I did that without any purpose at all."

Later, however, with a purpose and to augment her school allowance, Corpus would sell whatever she could find. She bought nicely-designed pencils and sold these to classmates. She also sold stuffed toys and items that were the "in" things in college then, earning such a reputation that the school principal once commented she could sell even ice to an Eskimo.

Back then, there never was an item Corpus couldn't convert into cash. But she was always prudent with her money. "I was not an excessive person. I am happily contented with what I have, and my highly supportive family takes care of my needs," she says.

"Perhaps, the manner I was raised made the difference. I do not scrimp, but my expectations of myself and my desires in life are not as superior as other people's. Hey, I still fly economy class," says the 50-year-old chief executive officer of Click! Licensing Asia, Inc. Being unmarried, career-driven and well-traveled, Corpus admits to be a conscientious saver and so the future does not scare her: "The principle I nurture regarding money matters is to enjoy a bit of it. If you worked hard for it, by all means you deserve a little fun."

These days, Corpus points to shopping sprees as the source of her joy. She attributes her discipline in finances to nine years spent in New York. It was there that she learned this tenet: "If it is good for me, I'll get it; if not, then I'll understand the reasons why."

Corpus, however, hasn't become complacent: "I try to be conservative as much as possible, yet I do commit mistakes along the way. And if money were in front of me, talking to me, I'd say thank you for getting me to where I am now." •

# SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

**Conceptis Sudoku** by Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | | | | | | | | 6 |
| | | 5 | | | 7 | 2 | | |
| | 1 | | | 4 | | | 5 | |
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| | | 6 | | 9 | | 5 | | |
| | | | | 5 | | | 1 | |
| | 3 | | | 7 | | | 4 | |
| | | 1 | 5 | | | 7 | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | 8 |

**Difficulty Level** ★★★★★

5/06

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**Answer to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 9 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 7 |
| 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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sim@inquirer.com.ph

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Executive Editor: Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Associate Editor: Ruel S. De Vera
Staff Writer: Eric S. Caruncho
Graphic Consultant: Paolo Viloria
Editorial Assistant: Sharon M. Felipe
Advertising and Sales Officer: Mylene de Jesus
Product Manager: Ged S. Ventura

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**Erratum:**

In the article "Gadget Greatness," **SIM**, April 22, 2007, the writer inadvertently quoted the price of Nokia N95 as P23,000. It should be P43,000. The writer apologizes for the error.

## *Beautiful nails*

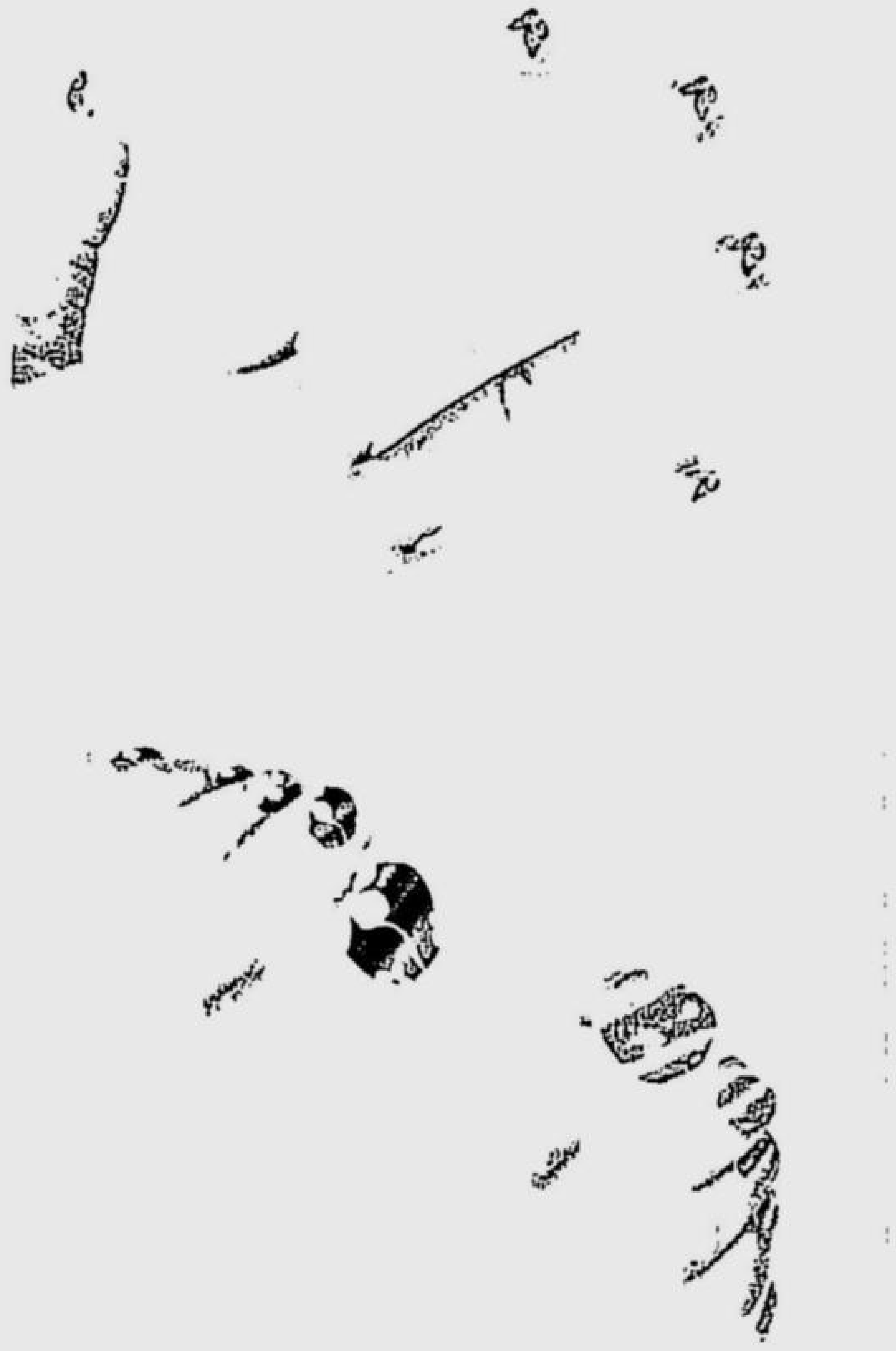
Part of summer's charms are colors that add life to one's vacation frolics. Splashes of bright hues take center stage in major fashion pages. Fabulous hair shades are seen amongst girls who love having fun with colors. This goes with accessories, bags and shoes. Now girls, what's a total fashion fun without some funky nail art? This season, BlueWater Day Spa gives everyone another reason to have fun this season: beautiful, colorful nails in just one hour! It's fun at your fingertips, or toe nails for that matter. Show it, flaunt it, have fun with it.

BlueWater Day Spa's digital nail art lets out the creative gal in you, with so many funky, girly, classy, playful designs you can choose from. The process doesn't involve too much fuss, as everything's done by nail experts using state-of-the-art nail art machines and nail paints that are imported from Japan. No need to wait for long salon hours. After cleaning and buffing, nails are painted off-white and then dried for a few minutes using an automatic nail dryer. Nails are then placed inside the digital nail art machine using clamps. This ensures that the nails are set in exact place before printing. In a few minutes, nail printing is finished. No frills, no fuss! It's just like a swift whiff of air passing through your nails. For a finishing touch, each nail's outer area is cleaned to get rid of excess paints. The final look: nails that are absolutely cool, fun, and fabulous

Take your pick from our girly girl designs like flowers, bows, butterflies, cherries, strawberries, and some favorite cartoon characters. Or be very funky with one-of-a-kind Japanese art designs, stripes and checks, yin-yang, or chic modern art. You can also go glam and classy with uptown girl designs reminiscent of high fashion French women wearing hats and flowers tucked in ears. But if you just sooo love being yourself, you can have your digital nail art personalized. Letters of your name, or pictures of you and your friends on your nails. Isn't that capital fun? And if you're not satisfied with just one design, it's always your call to choose which ones you like. To add a bit of glitz and glam to your nail art, you can always opt to put rhinestones on your nails and...voila! You instantly get glamorous, fun, and really one-of-a-kind nails ---- in as fast as one hour! The designs can last for as long as two weeks; just enough to enjoy your nail art and choose your next "look for the moment".

BlueWater Day Spa offers a special summer promo for all students. For only P510, they get to enjoy digital nail art (either for hands or for toes) and a free 30-45 minutes foot massage. Now that's value for money for individuals who value pampering and treating one's self.

BlueWater Day Spa has branches in Makati, and Greenhills. Recently, it has opened its newest and biggest branch along Mother Ignacia Avenue, Q.C. (near ABS-CBN).



By Gina Abuyuan

# It's time to make money, girls!

Hold off before you buy that next "must-have" pair of shoes, say the experts. Once you've mastered control over impulse buying, you may be on your way to tiptop financial health

August de la Cruz

**Navarro: You must have a plan**

WE hate to break it to you, but those stereotype images of women busting the bank for "that perfect pair of shoes" (which causes most of our credit card debt, by the way) and that on-a-whim tube of lipstick are true—and reflect why most of us aren't in the tiptop financial shape we dream of.

It's the curse of the impulse buyer, says Girlie Navarro, a financial packager, finance instructor at UP Diliman, and candidate with distinction of the International Association of Registered Financial Consultants. "Some women cannot resist something that gives instant gratification—feel-good products like salon treatments, a nice item on sale, a comfort food item, meal, or drink. But men have their own equivalents!"

This can be true either for women who are young, single, and still free of worries over rent and electricity bills (think highly-paid call center executives who still live with their folks), or for women who are already raising a family, says Helena Tack, a Philamlife-certified Financial Planner and a certified investment solicitor. "Very easily, single, young women who may or may not be responsible for livelihood expenses make the most common mistake of splurging their cash on unnecessary items, like trendy clothes, cell phones, a brand new car, or dinners out."

Navarro adds that many of our money booboos may also be traced to our innate desire to please and to reward. Generally, however, the "mistakes" most women find themselves in are related to their shortsightedness about a financial future.

Creating this capital base takes research, another area which both women and men sometimes fail at.

And the most foolish booboo (at least in this writer's opinion) that women make when dealing with money (or the lack of it)? Believing that a knight in a shining suit of greenbacks will come, save us from all our debt, and take us on endless shopping trips to Tiffany's. "It's highly unlikely that we'll find a Prince Charming who will sweep us off our feet and keep us in a royal lifestyle all our lives!" Tack agrees with a laugh.

When you begin to worry about anything in your life, says Navarro, it's a sign that it's been neglected. Hence, if you're always worried about money, it means that you have to start paying more attention to how you handle it.

The first step, she says, is to take responsibility. "Own up that whatever your current or future financial state is up to you—and not outside forces. You should give as much time and thought to your financial life as you do to your career, your looks, or your health."

Second, she and Tack concur, is to have a financial plan. "The most important thing is self knowledge," Tack underscores. "Whatever gender or status, it is imperative to know what you want. There must always be a plan. You have to know and set your goals. Is there a family need, like education, retirement, or a family vacation, that must be addressed?"

Navarro continues, "All absence or lack of control is traced to the lack of a financial plan. A long-term plan gives you major milestones to aim for, and a short-term plan between the milestones moves you along on a daily basis.

"Plans become the guideposts to help you decide whether you should buy a car now or later, forego a useless item for the satisfaction of achieving your real financial objectives, etc. As a result, your financial behavior becomes truly your own, and not just because everyone else is doing it."

To come up with a plan, she adds, one must have financial literacy. Read up, browse the internet for tips on saving and investing. It also wouldn't hurt to develop a circle of "financial advisers." Navarro suggests having a successful entrepreneur, a successful investor, and a successful multi-instrument financial planner or manager in your

(continued on page 14)

**It's time to make money, girls!** (from page 13)

Rudy Esperas

**Tack: You need discipline**

circle. "They would have different perspectives," she explains, "that is why it's important to have a variety."

"Financial literacy is like learning your ABCs—it needs to be taken one step at a time, over time. Contrary to common knowledge that you have to have a related degree to understand investments, most investments are studied and learned when you're out of school," Navarro says, who completed an economics course but only went all-out with finance and her advocacy for financial literacy well after graduation.

"People—not only women—with their finances in order have discipline," adds Tack. "When one has discipline, it is a habit for them to police their impulses and not feed the emotional pull towards instant gratification. Again, people with money have a plan. And they got that way because they had an objective, designed a plan—knowingly or not!—and monitored its progress."

"Once you do have a plan," Navarro goes on, you keep at it. "Having financial literacy is not enough. Only your actions will determine the fate of your money. Knowledge not applied is like still birth." She echoes Tack in saying that "No one got wealthy just by knowing a lot. Even so, the few solid actions you may undertake may contribute dramatically to your financial wealth."

Third, Navarro says, a support group is a great help. "Share your knowledge with your family members so you can align spending and saving habits as a group. Find time to discuss money matters and growing money with your friends, and find other people who can provide you inputs in this regard. Positive feedback and inputs make growing money a fun and easier task."

So before you hit the malls on the next must-go-to-sale, think again. "Financial independence is a worthwhile goal, which alone should be enough motivation to review lifestyle and spending habits," Tack underscores. "Another important thing is to have the will to move to the next level. Many people will have their rational mind agreeing that there are some major changes needed in their lifestyle and spending patterns, but do not have the will to make it happen. Today is the day to change the damaging pattern." •

## What are the most common mistakes people make with money?

**Girlie Navarro says:**

- They spend everything they earn today and start thinking of financial stability and freedom when it's too late. Basically, it stems from not having a life plan (which would consider the equivalent financial requirements), hence there is no need to know where the money is going, whether some expenses should be delayed over others, or whether they should be doing something else more profitable.

- They do not take responsibility for the management of their financial future, thinking one must be an "expert" in order to do that.

- They put a little money in the bank and think it's investing.

- They invest without understanding the investment vehicle and the risks involved - and blaming everything and everyone else when things don't work out without checking if they had overlooked some very important assumptions about the investment.

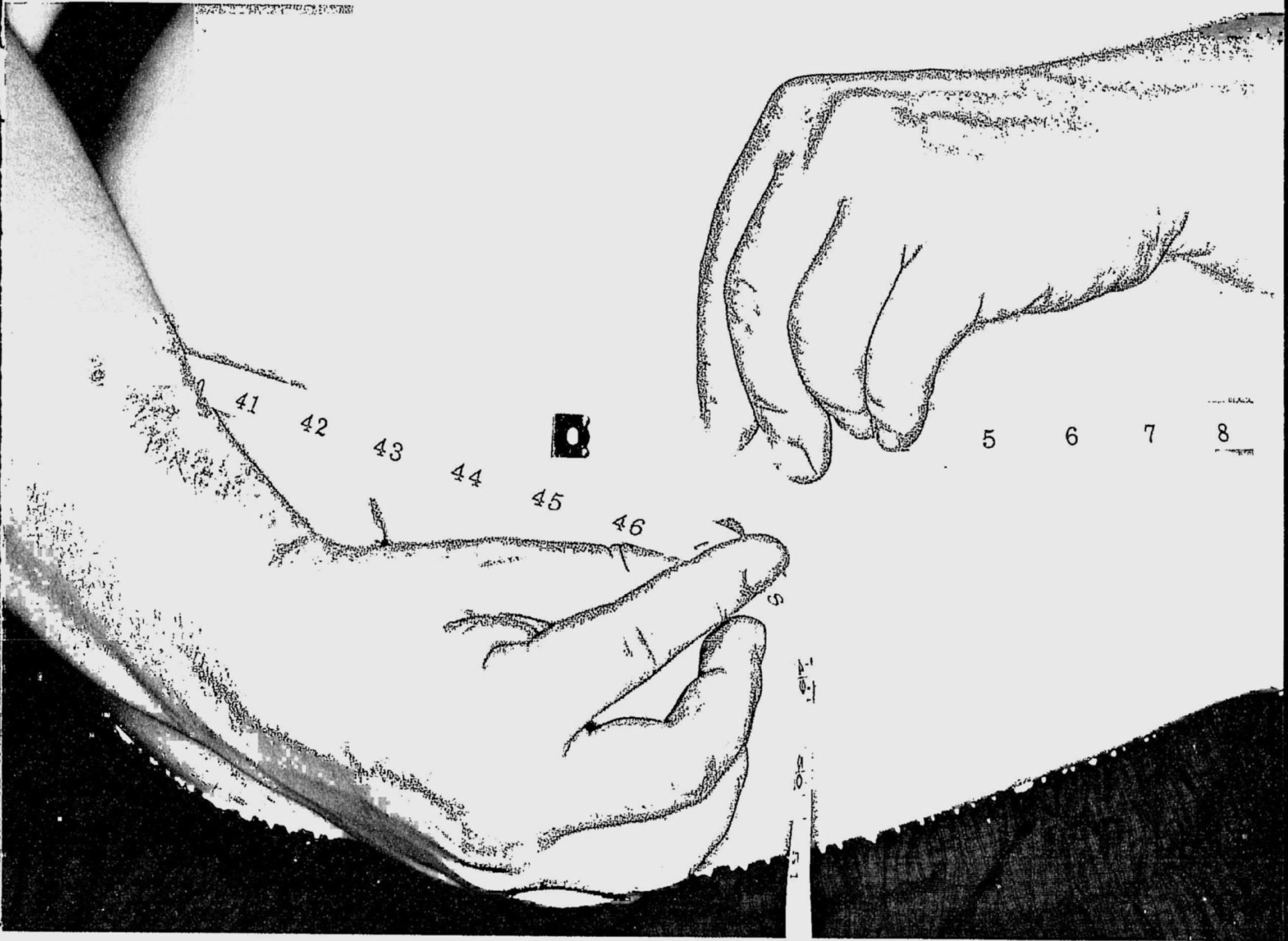
**Helena Tack says:**

- Thinking that the "money" will take care of itself. People tend to think that if the money is sitting in the bank, they have the license to just keep spending and not think of how the money can work to their advantage. Or, just keeping it in the bank, and hoping that the bank will make it grow without their intervention.

- Thinking that the money is for their instant gratification. We can do so much with the money we have, if we only have the proper mindset. There are many factors that come into play, mostly psychological and emotional. Even professionals and executives still have their "money sense" tied up to their emotions, and this is the biggest factor that affects how their money is handled.

- Thinking that the money will run out. We have to internalize that money is a currency—we use it to help us achieve what we want, or need... not the other way around. Money can always be earned, if we put our thoughts in the proper perspective, and act accordingly. Money, per se, is not to be "chased"... it is what the money represents to us, as individuals, that we must be more aware of. •

# LOSE THAT UNSEXY BEER BELLY



A bulging beer belly looks unsexy and is also unhealthy. Studies prove that excess fat in the tummy area puts you at a higher risk of heart disease, hypertension and diabetes. Avoid it by melting away fat easily through the **Beer Belly Buster**. It's the no-pain, no-strain fat-loss solution to get rid of your big belly. Get fit and healthy. Lose your beer belly now! Call Marie France FOR MEN now for a FREE consultation.

**Call 813-7959**

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## The Story of the Precious Egg

Legend tells of a king whose problem was how to amuse his queen or make her happy. Several suggestions were made to the king by members of the Royal Staff, but not one interested him. Then came the court jester who advised the king to order a delicately crafted colored egg from the royal jewelry designing shop and to give it to the queen. To the king's surprise, the queen liked the egg very much. So, every now and then, the king ordered more eggs in various colors and gave these exclusively to the queen on different occasions. Since then and in appreciation for the king's gesture, the queen had showered her lifetime love and affection on the king.

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Month: APR

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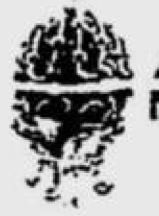

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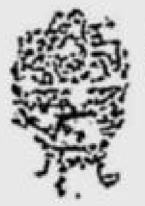

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Sale Price: Php 3,420.00 each
Dimension: approx. 4 x 4 x 7.1 cm.
Weight: approx. .18 kilograms

If you have this egg, it will help keep or maintain your luck, fortune, wealth, health and happiness.

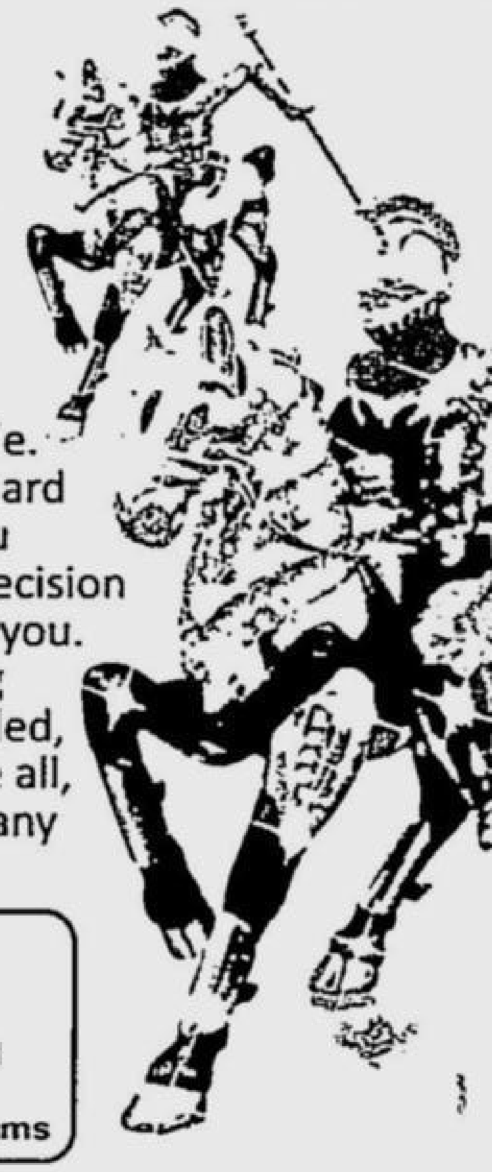
**Quality:**
These Precious Eggs are meticulously hand-crafted from fine pewter and plated in 24 karat gold. Pieces are then coated with enamel and inlaid with sparkling crystals from Austria.

## Profitable Pig

Legend tells that when this Profitable Pig is displayed beside your door, money will come your way.

Item No.: 1
Price: ~~Php 4,500.00~~
Sale Price: Php 4,050.00
Dimension: 8.4 x 4.3 x 3.8 cm.
Weight: approx. .2 kilograms

## Roving Guard



This Roving Guard is a symbol of protection. While man is good by nature, he could not avoid having problems and accidents or being envied by other people. If you display this Roving Guard in your office or house, you would expect a favorable decision on cases filed by or against you. Personal misunderstanding will always be amicably settled, if not totally avoided. Above all, it ensures your safety from any trouble.

Item No.: 2
Price: ~~Php 6,800.00~~
Sale Price: Php 6,120.00
Dimension: approx. 11.4 x 10.1 x 12.7 cm.
Weight: approx. .95 kilograms

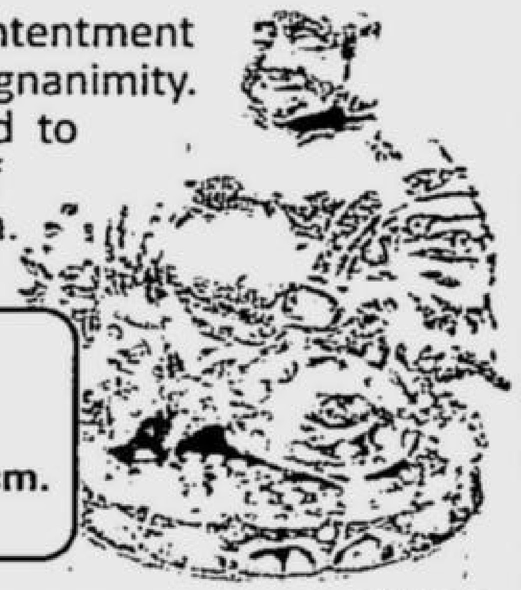
## Gold-Laden Sailboat

Item No.: 3
Price: ~~Php 4,800.00~~
Sale Price: Php 4,320.00
Dimension: approx. 7.6 x 3.6 x 8.6 cm.
Weight: approx. .3 kilograms

This sailboat symbolizes self-confidence and success in business. If you have this sailboat, everything you do, especially in business, shall be accomplished without any hitch and to your complete satisfaction. To have a more effective result you may put rice or money inside the sailboat and display it in your office or house with its bow (front) not pointing towards the door.

## Laughing Buddha

Laughing Buddha is said to bring contentment and happiness, popularity and magnanimity. Rubbing his fat round belly is said to bring good fortune. He is the God of fortune and the guardian of children.



Item No.: 4
Price: ~~Php 3,800.00~~
Sale Price: Php 3,420.00
Dimension: approx. 5 x 4.6 x 5.6 cm.
Weight: approx. .3 kilograms

Cut and fax this form to 241-2177

## ORDER FORM

Cardholder's Name:

Billing Address:

Contact Details:
Res: Office: Cel:

*(Please fill up the Shipping Address if it is DIFFERENT from the Billing Address)*
Shipping Address:

Credit Card No.: ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ JCB ☐ AmEx

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Card Expiry Date: *(month/year)* ☐☐/☐☐ Birthdate: *(month/day/year)* ☐☐/☐☐/☐☐☐☐

CVV2 / CVC2
*(Last 3 digits at the back of card):* ☐☐☐

BIN (for Visa, MC, JCB) / 4DBC (for AmEx):
*(unembossed / flat 4 digit at the face of the card)* ☐☐☐☐

| ITEM NO. | PRICE | QUANTITY | TOTAL AMOUNT |
|---|---|---|---|
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Grand Total Amount:

**Terms of Acceptance:**
I hereby agree to pay the above total amount according to the terms and conditions of the issuing bank. I promise to pay the issuing bank the amount due on my purchase/s of item/s subject to this contract in accordance with the terms and conditions thereof.

Cardholder's Signature

Date

Please fax to: **241-2177**

**Call (02) 245-9999** or SMS 0917-822-1111 for details

E-mail: alfredulla@yahoo.com Website: www.alfredulla.com.ph

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1535 series of 2007